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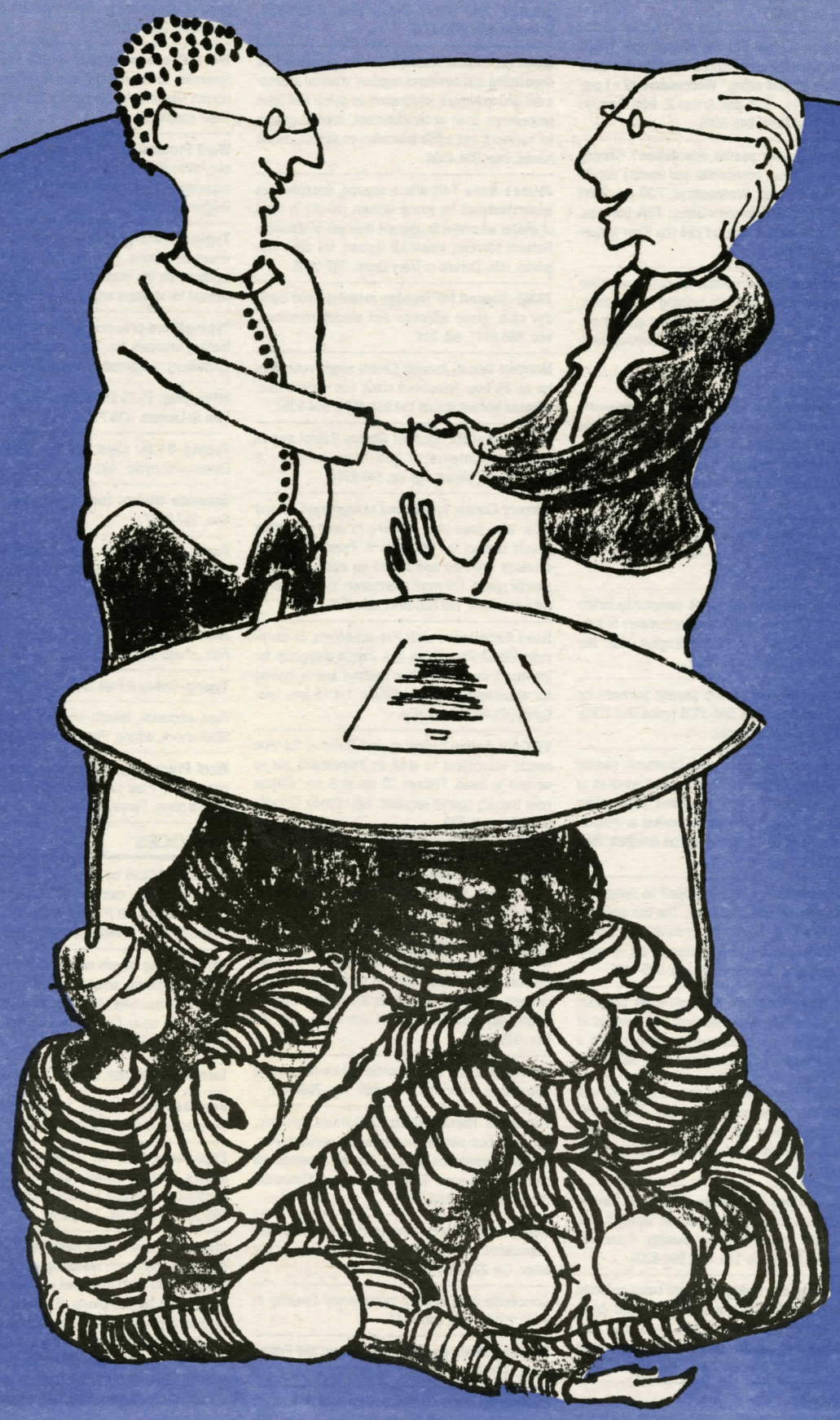

graphic by Ali Ross

the Link

Concordia's Independent Newspaper

Tuesday November 22, 1994 — Volume 15, Number 19

Concordia University — Montreal, Quebec

AGENDA

The Agenda is a free service to publicize events of interest to the Concordia community. Priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office, room H-649 in the Hall building, or mail it, to *the Link*–Agenda. Deadlines are 4pm, Friday for Tuesday issues, and 4 pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Tuesday, November 22

Concordia Animal Rights Association General Meeting. 6:30 pm, Mezz Café. Info: 939-5854.

Welfare: Charity or Right? Project Genesis' monthly public information meeting. 1 pm, 5829 Cote des Neiges. (165 Bus)

Wednesday, November 23

"Public Service, Public Censor: the history of AIDS in public service announcements" with Guest Speaker Ken Morrison. 12 noon, BR-209.

The Works of Film maker Amand Patwardhan: Patwardhan will show excerpts and discuss his films including *Father, Son and Holy War* (1994), *Prisoners of Conscience* (1978), *A Time to Rise* (1981), *Bombay our City* (1985), *In Memory of Friends* (1990), and *In the Name of God* (1992). 4-6 pm, Bryan 209.

Thursday, November 24

Demo Day at MITE Avista. MITE staff will be on hand to demonstrate work-stations: sound & image processing/ video toaster/ 3-D Animation. 11-5 pm.

"Northern Voices & Mediating Structures: Television Broadcasting North of 60," a *Brown Bag* lecture by Communications Studies Professor Lorna Roth. 12 noon, 2149 Mackay St.

Concordia Cancer Awareness Resource Group General Meeting for those who have a parent or loved one with cancer or who have lost someone to cancer. 4-6 pm, 2149 Mackay, Basement Lounge.Info: Lauren, 696-0566.

Delicious Thursday at the Women's Centre: all women (especially you big gals!) are invited to this clothes swap and pot-luck. Bring some non-staining food to share and all sizes of clothes to trade. 5 pm, P-105.

"Healing Our Spirit: Using Community Theatre to Combat AIDS in First Nations Communities," a performance/ presentation by Evan Tiesla Adams. 6 pm, H-110.

Information Exchange for Birth Assistants, sponsored by *Alternative Naissance* and *Montreal Alliance of Aspiring Midwives.* 7 pm, Centre de Santé des Femmes, 14 St-Joseph East. Info: Sophie, 274-6664 or Brigitte, 393-3013.

Friday, November 25

"Economic Growth with Economic Constraints," a lecture by former Quebec Environment Minister Clifford Lincoln. 2 pm, H-507.

The Vienna Tribunal by Gerry Rogers will be screened as part of the National Day to End Violence Against Women. The event is a benefit for Secours aux Femmes. 7 pm, H-110

Monday, November 28

"Writing Without Reading: The Jurisdiction of Composition and the Future of Literary Studies," a lecture by Johns Hopkins Professor John Guillory. 8:30 pm, H-507.

Tuesday, November 29

"After the Montreal Massacre," a film by Gerry Rogers. 2 pm, Simone de Beauvouir Institute (2170 Bishop) Rm. 101.

"The Feminization of Immigration," a workshop examining the obstacles immigrant women must overcome. 2-4 pm, Women's Y, 1355 Réné Lévesque West. Info: 866-9941, ext. 314.

Wednesday, November 30

Lesbian Discussion Group will hold its first meeting at the Women's Centre. All queer chicks, bidykes, lesbians and women wondering what you are, welcome. 5:30, 2020 Mackay, P-105.

Thursday, December 1

World AIDS Day Information Fair at the Women's Y. 10 am - 2 pm, 1355 Réné Lévesque West.

ACADEMIC

Term Papers and written assignments? We can help you get started, organize ideas, identify problem areas. Counselling & Development: 848-3545.

Free tutoring available to students who fail the University Writing test. Info: 848-2320.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Want to talk? We can help you with your personal, educational and vocational concerns.Confidentiality is ensured. Info: Counselling and Development: 848-3545, 3555.

Birth Control Workshops to explore options for men and women. Mondays at 12 noon, 2155 Guy, Rm. 407; Wednesdays at 12 noon, 6935 Sherbrooke W, Room 101. To register, call Health Services, 848-3565/3575.

Sign-language courses at the Montreal Deaf Community Centre. Placement tests are required. 65 de Castelnau. Info: TTY: 279-8535.

Peer Helpers is a free, confidential listening service of students helping students. 2090 Mackay St. Info: 848-2859.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, a resource group for students trying to make ends meet. Info: Peer Helpers, 848-2859.

Meditation: A Tool For Self-Knowledge. These sessions will draw upon various traditions and each will include a "quiet sitting." Wednesdays 12 - 1 pm, Thursdays 4:15 - 5:15 pm, Annex Z. Info: Campus Ministry, Daryl Ross, 848-3585.

Questioning your sexual orientation? Coming Out support group, confidential and friendly atmosphere. Men's Group: Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, 2090 Mackay, Room 02. Women's Group: TBA. For information or individual support call the Peer Helper Centre, 848-2859.

Sign up now for workshops on communication skills, career & life planning, building relationships, study skills, loss and grieving support groups etc. For information, call Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

GENERAL

Food Basket Drive: Please donate non-perishable food items to Caribbean Students Union, H-508-1, African Students' Association, H-608-2 or Dean of Students Office, AD-121 or H-653. Collection ends Dec. 18.

Low-income Students Network will explore strategies and resources for low-income students. Info: 848-2859.

Head and Hands, a non-profit community health and social service centre, needs volunteers to tutor high school students in French, English, Math etc. Info: Bruce, 481-0277, 481-3643.

Volunteers needed to help provide services for disabled students. Info: 848-3525 (voice and TDD), Disabled Students' Services.

Compeer Montreal, a non-profit community service which provides friendship and support services to people with mental health problems, is recruiting volunteers 18 years or older to provide re-integration services to persons with mental illnesses. Info: 489-1007.

Tel-Aide needs volunteers to staff its telephone crisis line for people in distress. The line operates 24 hours a day, lending a sympathetic ear to Montrealers who are lonely, abused, out of work, emotionally scarred or suicidal. Info: 935-1105.

Prison Visit Program: An eight-week program each semester, in which students visit inmates at Archambault Prison. Volunteers must meet with a chaplain ahead of time. Info: Peter Coté, 848-3586.

Outreach Experience: participants will work with children, teens, the poor or the sick. The activity and amount of time will depend on your interests and abilities. Information: Michelina Bertone SSA, 848-3591.

Les Ateliers des Mélomanes–13 different themes on the music business, filmed on location and rebroadcast on CUTV. Every Sunday, 4 pm, 235 Sherbrooke W, Studio 110. Info: 990-5209.

Aid for Rwandan Refugees is still being collected by the YWCA. Money and first aid supplies (blankets, sterilized gauze, bandages, hand soap etc.) are desperately needed to assist refugee women and their families. Info: 866-9941, ext. 293.

WOMEN

The Montréal Assault Prevention Centre offers a self-defense course called ACTION for women. Each course provides verbal and physical techniques to help women deal with any type of aggression. Contact the Women's Centre for information about courses at or near Concordia: 848-7431.

SOS Violence conjugale 24 hour crisis intervention a shelter referral. 873-9010.

How do I Look? Women's Film, video and sound festival is now accepting submissions. Drop off entries at BR-314 or Cafe X. Deadline: Dec. 23. Info: 278-8266, 495-1014.

Self-Help Groups meet weekly dealing with incest, destructive personal relationships, sexual identity etc. Info: 866-9941, ext. 293.

Mouvement contre le viol: 842-5040.

Centre for AIDS Services for Women needs volunteers. Info: 954-0170, Basia.

HIV/AIDS Education/Prevention Workshops for Women. These 2-day workshops focus on HIV/AIDS, STDs, Sexuality & Self-esteem. Emphasis is placed on ways to empower women and promote positive behaviour changes. Every Saturday & Sunday from 10 am to 3 pm until the end of November. To register call Rita, 989-7997.

24 Hour Hotline & Crisis Line, Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, 934-4504.

Concordia Women's Centre provides a lounge area for women in the University Community, referral and support, information and community notice boards. 2020 Mackay, downstairs. 848-7431.

Centre des femmes de Montréal: Services de première ligne, 842-4780; Service aux femmes immigrantes, 842-0814; Option'Elle, 842-6652; Formation'Elle, 842-4776.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre provides free counselling and emotional support, medical assessment and treatment, information on police and court procedures, court accompaniment, support groups for survivors and public education on sexual assault issues. Info: 934-4504.

Jeunes Avec Toit offers shared, inexpensive accommodation for young women (18-30) in need of shelter who wish to upgrade their job or life skills. Referral services, individual support, life skills programs. Info: Doreen or Mary Denis, 769-0855.

TAMS–Support for Teenage mothers: food bank, day care, group activities and weekly meetings. Info: 866-9941, ext. 314.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre needs volunteers for its 24 hour telephone crisis line. Concerned, bilingual women should call 934-4504, 934-9354.

The Concordia Student Safety Patrol needs female volunteers! If you have an extra 6 hours/month, please sign up. 848-8700.

Literacy Centre. Anglophone women aged 16 and older who need help learning to read and write should contact the Women's Y. Personal tutoring services are free and based on each student's special needs. For more information, to volunteer or refer someone, call 866-9941, ext. 278.

Need Experience with Pre-schoolers or multiculturalism? Parenthèse is a unique playgroup for immigrant moms and their children and is looking for volunteers. Tues. or Thurs. 1-4:15 pm. Info: Cyndy, 934-0354, ext. 354.

YWCA's Active Listening and Referral Service needs volunteers to lend an empathetic ear to women in need. Fridays 10 am to 6 pm. Fifteen hour training course required. Info: Lynda Tétrault, 866-9941, ext. 293.

Women's Employment Counselling at the "Y" helps women to seek employment, return to work or explore their interests and aptitudes. Eng. & Fr. Free. Info: 866-9941.

STUDENT CLUBS

Concordia Outdoor Club is going indoor rock-climbing on Dec. 3. Beginners & experts welcome. Registration Nov. 22 & 29, 11 am- 1 pm, CH-220. Info: 848-7452.

Young Liberals of Concordia welcome anyone who wishes to become a member. Info: 769-5432.

The Brick Theatre Group welcomes dynamic, spontaneous people interested in performance, recitation, dissection of plays. Weekly meetings will be scheduled soon. Leave message at Concordia Students' Union, 848-7474

Concordia Undergraduate History Students' Association is back in business. Call or drop by our office, CH-222. Info: 848-7463.

Concordia Irish Society meets every Tuesday at 8 pm, P-103. Info: 848-7411.

Debating Meetings Wednesday, 7 pm and Friday, 2 pm, H-937.

Concordia Queer Collective holds weekly meetings on Fridays at 5:30 pm in P-102. Information: 848-7414.

Concordia Writers' Group meets every Thursday, 3:30, HB-301. Info: Bill, 684-3502.

International Socialists Students' Association meets every Wednesday at 7:30 pm, in H-771. Join our weekly political discussions. Info: 521-1983.

Ham Radio Meetings every Tuesday. Personal two-way radio, television, UHF/VHF, satellite and computer communications by ham radio. All Welcome. 7 to 9 pm, H-644-1. Info: 848-7474.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates: 20¢ per word for Concordia Arts & Science and Fine Arts undergraduate students; 25¢ per word for all others (plus applicable taxes). Deadlines are 4pm Friday for Tuesday issues, 4pm Wednesday for Friday issues. Classified advertising must be purchased in our offices in room H-649. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Ads must be accompanied by full payment. We do NOT take classified ads by phone, fax, or mail.

TYPING

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Graduate student does typing, checks grammar. Sue, 257-0777.

Peace of Mind–your papers typed & proofread. Editing also available. Reasonable rates. 522-7409.

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Experienced Editor/ Creative Writer. Student papers, theses, manuscripts, resumés, tutoring, translation, Spanish/ French/ English. Call Marian: 765-9804, 761-5234, 7 days/ wk.

Ideal Job Search and Resumé Workshop: This three-day, hands-on workshop will equip you with the tools you need to market yourself as a valuable asset to a future employer. Emphasis will be given to resumé preparation, the job search, preparing for the interview and the interview itself. When: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 28th to 30th, 1994, 09:00-17:00. Cost: $175 (materials & tax included). Phone 848-3604 for more information and location.

Translations, French to English. Reasonable rates. Jonathan, 739-3794.

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APARTMENTS

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Spitting distance from SGW Library. Need third room-mate for spacious downtown 5 1/2. $292/ month, all included. ASAP. Yes, we have cable TV. 288-5179.

Looking for a third roommate to share a 6 1/2 on the Plateau. Great location. Incredibly cheap. Lesbian-positive. 499-0001.

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RECREATION

Vacation in Costa Rica. Inexpensive. Flexible arrangements. Year-round. Info: Yana, 522-5867.

HELP WANTED

Subjects needed for a psychology experiment involving the study of cognitive processes. It is a great opportunity to learn more about yourself and to contribute to the advancement of science. Participation is paid. Please call France: 768-2448.

Paid participation in hypnosis research. The hypnosis laboratory is seeking volunteers to participate in studies on hypnosis and related cognitive abilities. If interested, call 848-2213 on Mondays between 4 pm and 6 pm; on Tuesdays between 1 pm& 3 pm; on Wednesdays between 1 pm & 3 pm; on Thursdays between 4 pm & 6 pm; or on Fridays between 2 pm & 4 pm. Volunteers will be paid for their participation.

Urgent!! English Literature tutor needed. Excellent knowledge or *Beowulf* or *Henry IV*. $10/ hour. 337-2478.

GENERAL

Graduate Student get-togethers with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. Dean Martin Kusy would like to meet with graduate students this year on an informal basis. Sessions have been arranged for this purpose from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at our Graduate Administration Offices, 2145 Mackay Street, on the following dates: Second Semester: Tuesday, January 31, 1995; Monday, February 13, 1995. Our space is limited. Please reserve one of the above dates by contacting Ms. Kali Sakell at 848-3803. We look forward to seeing you.

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"BRING THIS COUPON FOR REGISTRATION"

Faculty in uproar over senior salaries

by Carol McQueen

Imagine being a university professor and one of your colleagues becomes a senior administrator. For him or her, it means a big raise in pay. After a period of time, they return to their professorship. You've both been working at the university for the same number of years, but there's now one difference between the two of you: He or she makes up to $80,000 more than you, because they get to keep their administrator's salary even after they return to the classroom.

That's exactly what's been going at Concordia on since 1992.

Senior administrators—the rector, vice-rectors, and deans—could step down from their positions today, return to their regular teaching jobs and continue to earn salaries as high as $160,000. That's more than three times the rate of a newly-hired professor and more than $80,000 over the salary of a distinguished scholar with 25 years of service.

But these inequities have been kept secret from the university community because the Senior Salaries Committee, which set the policy and is appointed by the Board of Governors, is sworn to secrecy and doesn't have to report its decisions back to the Board.

Concordia University's Faculty Association (CUFA) only learned of the policy by using the Quebec Access to Information Act which forces government organizations to make information open to anyone who requests it. Universities fall into this category because they are heavily funded by the provincial government.

The Policy Concerning the Remuneration of Senior Academic Administrators, passed in February 1993, says that senior administrators will return to the professorate with their high salaries intact. Their salaries would remain frozen until faculty members of similar seniority reach their level of income, according to the policy.

Schedule of Senior Academic Salaries and Other Compensation — 1 June 1993

	Administrative Salary[1]		SMPAP	Housing	Car	
	1st Term2nd Term 1st & 2nd Term	(R, VR, Deans) 3rd Term (A VR, Sec.–Gen.)			Lease $/month	Allowance $/month
Rector	165000	181500	Yes	Yes	900	50
Vice-Rectors	135000	148500	Yes	No	750	No
Deans	115000	126500	Yes	No	No	No[2]
Associate Vice-Rectors	97500	107250	Yes	No	No	No
Secretary General	97500	107250	Yes	No	No	No

[1]Based on a comparison of senior administrative salaries in Canadian Universities in 1991.
[2]The Senior Salaries Committee may exceptionally authorize a car allowance.

But some faculty members argue that this approach to equalizing faculty salaries will be very slow in times of low inflation, when wages rise more slowly.

Morton Stelcner, a professor in the Department of Economics, researched the issue and wrote a letter to the CUFA news bulletin criticizing the policy.

"Using information in the public domain, I can inform you that two former Vice-Rectors and a Dean have returned with a lifetime salaries of about $130,000, $142,900, and $143,900," he wrote. "Similarly, the five current Deans will return with at least $115,000, and the three Vice-Rectors with at least $130,000."

Other Concordia faculty members are in outrage at such lifetime perks.

"CUFA remains concerned that former administrators would carry unusually high salaries for long periods of time," said William Knitter, president of CUFA.

"These people will return to the bargaining table with salaries well over that of most distinguished scholars," he added.

Martin Singer, chair of the History Department, is more harsh in his criticism of this policy.

"When administrators return to their regular teaching positions, they do not deserve more consideration than their colleagues as they are no longer performing administrative duties, " he said. "It creates two tiers of faculty membership: those well-paid and the rest of us."

Stelcner says that the university is probably losing a lot of valuable funds by overpaying some of its administration-turned-faculty.

"Suppose, for example, that 25 senior administrators return with an 'excess amount' of $40,000. This translates into a burden of $1,000,000 per year that is borne by faculty, students, and staff, i.e. $1,250 per faculty member," he said.

Many professors argue that the unequal funds are taking away from other areas which need the money.

"This money has to come from somewhere," said Knitter. "Probably, most of it comes from the masse salariale." The mass salariale is the common pool from which salaries are drawn.

Knitter added that this extra money handed out could be allocated towards more useful purposes such as increasing the starting salary for new professors and ensuring pay equity in the university.

Other Unequal Salary Increases

Between 1982 and 1991, differences in faculty and administration salary increases were minimal. Upon analyzing data from 1981 to 1991, Stelcner concluded that "The average annual percentage increases in salaries rarely exceeded the percentage increases awarded to faculty."

Past senior administrators who return to teaching were also comparable to faculty members with the same seniority at Concordia.

But after the policy change by the Senior Salaries Committee in 1993, annual percentage increases since 1992 tended to consistently exceed those given to faculty and to earlier senior administrators, according to Stelcner.

"In 1993-1994 faculty salaries increased on average by 2.2%, while those of the 1992-95 senior administrators' rose by 4.1%," he added.

"It is way out of line for them to receive such increases," said Katherine Waters of the English Department who has been questioning senior administrators' remuneration issues since 1983.

"Our salaries have been rolled back in each of the past two years," she added.

Lifting the veil of secrecy

Faculty members and students representatives are critical of the secrecy surrounding the salaries committee.

"We have a right to know," said Singer, "Why should it be secret how we spend taxpayers' money?"

Katherine Waters of the English Department agrees. She thinks that the veil of secrecy should be lifted.

"The Senior Salaries Committee should be made accountable to the Board [of Governors]," she said. "Too much power is in the hands of the Board. It can use secrecy when it wants to."

She is weary of the business interests which seem to dominate the Board and dictate its functioning. She says that they have no qualms about arranging exits and severance packages as well as granting appalling bonuses, referring to former rector Patrick Kenniff.

Waters proposes that Concordia completely overhaul its administrative structure so that it resembles that of McGill's which has a joint committee of the Senate and the Board.

For now, Singer of the History Department has prepared a motion condemning the policies of the Senior Salaries Committee, which he will present at the next meeting of the Arts and Science Faculty Council. Its recommendations read as follows:

- the "Policy Concerning the Remuneration of Senior Academic Administrators" should immediately be nullified by the Board of Governors
- the Senior Salaries Committee of the Board should recommend to the full Board a new policy on remuneration of senior academic administrators, but only after full consultation with the University Senate, the faculty councils and the faculty members of Concordia University;
- in the interim the chairs of the five existing search committees for senior academic administrators should be directed to advise short-listed candidates of the on-going revision to our remuneration policies;
- the Board of Governors

continued on page 12

Students camp out

by Geneviève Napier

Several dozen students slept under the stars last Friday to express their disappointment with the University's decision to close down Langley Hall, one of Loyola's two residences.

Residents from both Langley and Hingston bundled up and in a show of solidarity brought sleeping bags out to Loyola's front lawn to protest the closure.

The residence will close down because the university can no longer afford its upkeep.

Prior to the sleep-out a handful of Langley residents met with Brian Counihan, Dean of Students, to discuss the decision. Although the dean expressed sympathy, he stressed that it is a matter of simple economics.

Counihan said the 110 bed residence is operating with a $100 000 deficit and needs about one million dollars worth of repairs and renovations, a sum beyond the university's means.

Although he appreciated the student's intent to protest he added that it is improbable that the University will reverse its decision.

photo by Justin Rachefort

Counihan emphasized the fact that only Langley is closing down, whereas the University had originally toyed with the idea of closing down both residences. Now the 140 bed Hingston Hall will remain in operation for at least another year. If it proves financially viable it may remain open longer.

To residents the closing of Langley Hall means that the University will be less able to provide what they say is an indispensable service, especially for out of town students.

"You're making an adjustment to moving away from home for the first time, you've got to familiarize yourself with your surroundings and residence makes the process easier, smooths it out," explained resident assistant Jeff Peters.

Peters says he wouldn't have come to Concordia if residence hadn't been available. He added that a loss of residence will translate into a loss of international students for whom on-campus housing is an important factor in choosing a university.

Although Counihan agreed that "It's ideal for someone that comes from out of town to spend at least a year in residence," he said that the residences, with a combined total of 250 beds, only service one per cent of the student population.

"I'm not sure if we had another 100, 200, 300 beds...I wouldn't put my next paycheck on their being filled all the time. There's already vacancies."

But Peters said that there are only four empty beds between the two residences, and that in the last three years the occupancy rate has increased steadily.

Nevertheless, he understands the university's decision. "We're disappointed that the administration made this decision without talking to us, but we understand that it is financial and we are only 250 students, but for those 250 it's an invaluable service."

Annette Hansen, another residential assistant, agrees. Hailing from Vancouver, Hansen said "If residence was not around I have a feeling that I would have been home after a month."

Most of the residents come from B.C., Ontario or the East Coast. The residence is also home to many exchange students and international students.

Langley, which first opened its doors in 1967, will close its doors for good at the end of this winter semester, just two years shy of its thirtieth anniversary.

Counihan said the University will very likely try to sell Langley.

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Graduate Studies Information Session

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McConnell Building - Atrium

Participating Universities:

- **Université Laval (Quebec City)**
- **Université Québec à Hull**
- **Université du Québec à Montréal**
- **Université du Québec à Rimouski**
- **Concordia University**

Representatives from each of the above institutions will be present to answer inquiries and to provide information on their graduate programmes. For further details, please contact:

Debbie MacFadden, School of Graduate Studies, 848-3808

Craig Brown, Liaison, Office of the Registrar, 848-4973

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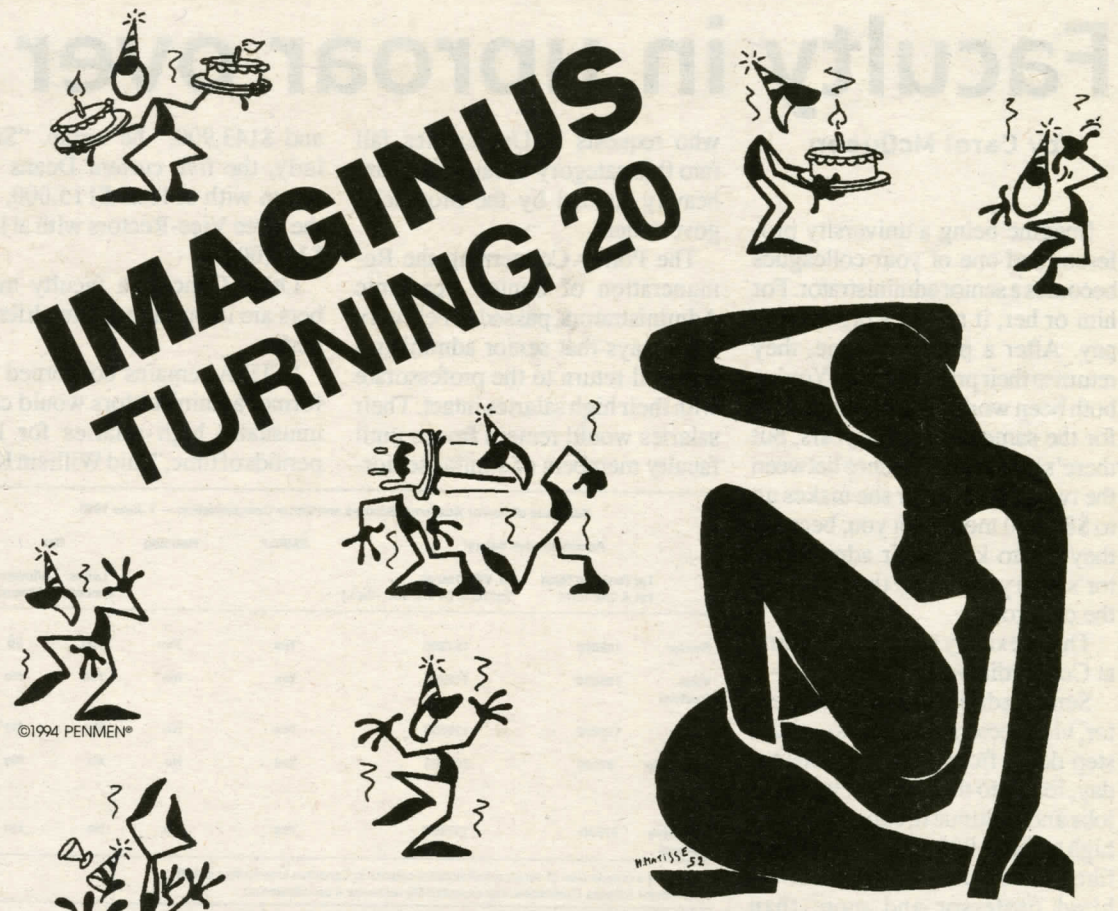

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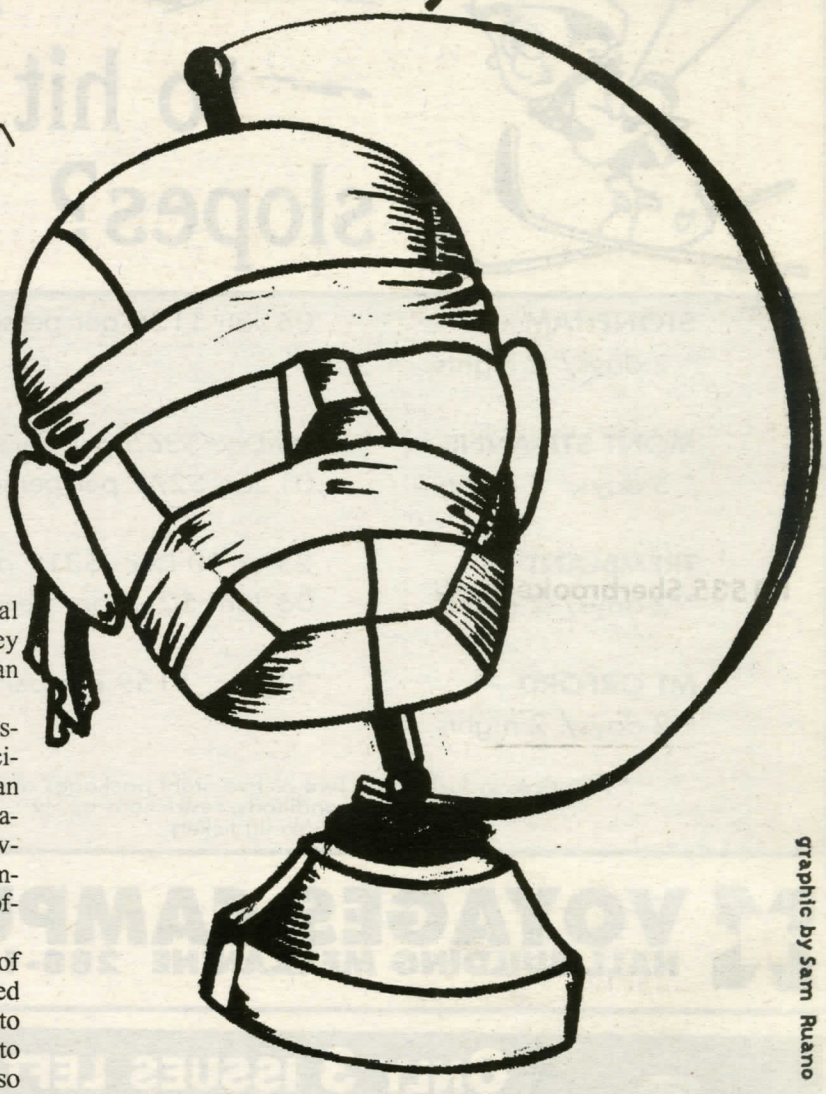
Watching the watchdogs

Assessing the effectiveness of international human rights groups

by Carol McQueen



graphic by Sam Ruano

From Rwanda to Yugoslavia to Haiti, the world is increasingly plagued by gross violations of human rights, mass killings and genocide. While thousands are brutally murdered and tortured, others languish in prison cells because of their beliefs, their ethnic origins, their sex or their colour.

Such crimes against humanity do not go unnoticed. An active network of non-governmental organizations such as Amnesty International (A.I.), Human Rights Watch (H.R.W.) and the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development monitor the human rights situation in countries all over the world, informing the international community so that action can be taken through the United Nations at a political level and through letter-writing and advocacy at a grass-roots level.

"Our mandate is to promote the United Nations Bill of Human Rights," said Peter Globinsky, director of programmes at the Centre for Human Rights. "We work with advocacy organizations in developing countries and try to establish partnerships with groups at the forefront of what is called civil society."

"These groups mediate between the individual and formal political party structures," he added.

Globinsky said that the Centre works to have the issue of human rights elevated to the status of international concern.

It has sent observers to assess elections in countries returning to democracy after years of conflict and war. It has also sent experts to countries such as Rwanda to monitor the scale and extent of human rights abuse.

Frank Chalk, History professor at Concordia and expert in genocide, is familiar with the work of Human Rights Watch (HRW), an American human rights organization which monitors abuse in every continent.

"I would say that the work that H.R.W. is doing in Africa is outstanding," he said.

Chalk is particularly impressed with the way in which HRW dealt with the growing crisis in Rwanda.

"The representatives of H.R.W. brought together very important and up-to-date information on the threats of mass-killing that developed from January 1994 to April 9th when major massacres began in Rwanda, and warned ahead of time that mass-killing was imminent," he said.

Amnesty International also coordinates a large system of reporters, national advocacy groups and independent sources to monitor human rights abuse across the globe. It prints country reports informing the international community of the human rights records of particular nations so governments will be pressured to conform to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

"AI has an urgent-action network which immediately informs the global community about political prisoners recently incarcerated or disappeared," said John Tackaberry, Media Relations for Amnesty in Ottawa.

He added that A.I. encourages individuals to send letters, faxes and telegrams asking governments to release prisoners of conscience and to ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners.

Swaying the international community

But, with no real power to sway the international community, these international non-governmental human rights groups often find they are limited in the effects they can achieve.

"The real problem with the system, that H.R.W and A.I. participate in, is that at present they can only urge action by the United Nations and the most powerful governments of the international community," said Chalk, "and they often get very little response."

Chalk argues that in the case of Rwanda, H.R.W was not heeded when it called for all countries to dispatch human rights observers to all parts of the African nation, so they could immediately detect the start of political killings and ethnic violence, and notify the global public.

Chalk said that the United Nations did not send monitors because it lacked support from its member governments.

"Two major problems affect the U.N. capacity to intervene," he said. "We have donor fatigue such that many countries are not making their annual dues payments to the U.N., and we have a lack of will among the major powers who are cutting back on overseas expenditures."

Rhoda Howard, the director of McMaster University's Theme School on International Justice and Human Rights, thinks that the U.N.'s inability to respond quickly and effectively relates to its own structure as a body of member nations.

"The U.N. is a body of states where diplomacy dominates," she said. "Which countries get covered with regard to human rights and which do not depends on what the governments in the Assembly decide."

Globinsky of the Centre of Human Rights points out that the U.N. is also hindered in its activities because it cannot infringe upon the sovereign rights of nations.

"The U.N. is an international organization comprised of governments all jealous about the idea of sovereignty," he said.

According to Chalk, the U.N. is capable of intervening in certain cases of international aggression.

"At present, the United Nations has clear authority to intervene in situations in which one nation violates the sovereignty of another nation through territorial aggression," he said.

When the U.N. cannot intervene is not as clear cut.

"Despite the fact that there are many international conventions, sponsored by the U.N. and aimed at protecting the individual against violations of human rights, the right of the U.N. to intervene in domestic affairs of its members continues to be a controversial area," Chalk said.

"Very often, gross violations are cloaked under the cover of civil war and political struggles, which are generally outside the boundaries of these conventions," he added. "However, increasingly in the last ten years, the U.N. has demonstrated a willingness to go beyond mediation and embark on peace-keeping operations."

Shedding Cold War constraints

Globinsky agrees that the U.N. is awakening out of its cold war imposed slumber, and intervening in cases which previously would have been ignored due to the potential of superpower conflict. He believes that with the U.N. intervention in Rwanda, a precedent may have been set in international law regarding the sovereignty of nations and U.N. action in cases of violations of human rights.

"According to the Charter of the U.N., domestic activities are the responsibility of national governments," he said, "But in the Rwanda case, when violence and torture such a magnitude that they insulted human rights norms, the U.N. intervened to stop the massacres."

"Sovereignty can no longer be an excuse to perpetrate murder," Globinsky added. "The U.N. is intervening earlier and more effectively."

Howard of McMaster agrees that the concept of "sovereignty is loosening," which could permit the U.N. to venture into new waters with regard to human rights abuse prevention.

Despite these new possibilities for intervention, a world free of human rights abuse is not yet within sight.

Chalk argues that more steps need to be taken to ensure prevention before occurrence.

He said that threats of trade boycotts and curtailment of loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund could be used immediately once reports of violations of human rights begin to filter in from Amnesty and H.R.W..

"HRW also knows it is useful to gather the names of the organizers of mass-killings so they can be charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes if they actually implement their threats (of human rights abuse)," he said, referring to the possibility of letting potential perpetrators know they are being watched.

Chalk proposes a more effective use of the media in preventing human rights abuse.

"As a result of my trip to Cambodia, I have begun to think about the usefulness of establishing a new instrument of peaceful intervention," he said. "And that new instrument is radio broadcasting from portable transmitters to deliver hard-news that is accurate and timely and that counteracts the disinformation disseminated by government-controlled radio broadcasting stations."

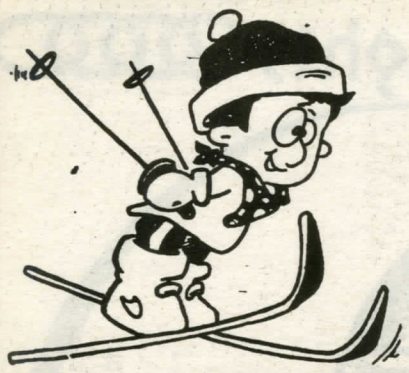
In this manner, human rights organizations could counteract the false propaganda of mass-killers who attempt to spread negative images of the victim group and to incite their populations to anger and violence through lies.

Chalk said these portable radio units could be set up in neighbouring countries.

But Chalk admits that what would turn the tide against human rights

cont'd on page 12

photo by Julien Saucier



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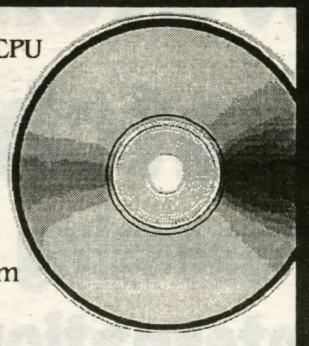

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Breaking the chains of discrimination in Sri Lanka

by Shira Katz

This week, Sri Lankan Tamils across the world will be remembering their loved ones. "Hero's Day," which was inaugurated on November 27, 1989, is a day of reflection for many Tamils. Last Saturday, the Tamil Association of Quebec held a Hero's Day gathering at Marie Anne High School to commemorate the Tamils who lost their lives in the battle for freedom.

A theatre performance consisted of characters fighting for freedom from discrimination. A man in chains represented the liberated consciousness.

"We have more freedoms in foreign countries than in our own country," expressed one of the characters. "Our chains must be broken."

Oppressive Government

Known as Ceylon until 1972, Sri Lanka became an independent nation in 1948 after nearly 450 years of European rule. Sri Lanka has a majority population of Sinhalese, with a large minority of Tamil people. Soon after independence, the Sri Lankan government pursued a policy of forced assimilation toward the Tamil people. For example, all citizens of Columbo, the capital, were forced to use the Sinhalese language only. Their Constitution enshrined the religion of Buddhism, the predominant religion of most Sinhalese people, despite the Tamil devotion to Hinduism.

In the late 1970s, armed Tamil minority groups began to fight for an independent Tamil state which they would call Eelam. Eelam was to be concentrated in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country, where a majority of Tamils live.

The Tamils fought for language and land rights against the Sinhalese-dominated government. The civil war began in 1983, when the Sinhalese sent their people to colonialize the Tamil areas.

J. Francis Xavier is an Anglican priest and a family counsellor in Montreal, who works part-time for the Little Burgundy Coalition. A Tamil, Xavier came to Canada as a refugee in 1983 in his third attempt to escape persecution. His wife, Chandrane, is Sinhalese. Despite the war between Tamil and Sinhalese extremist groups, it is not uncommon to find such mixed marriages. Xavier says that having a Sinhalese wife helped him in escaping persecution.

Prior to leaving his country of origin, Xavier joined a Tamil movement called Ghandiyam in 1983. This peace movement was formed at approximately the same time that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was infiltrating across the country.

"They suspected our movement was tied to the guerillas," said Xavier. "Many Tamils had to flee their estates when they were being persecuted. I was living in Columbo at the time, and I helped to resettle these refugees in the North and East. When the government killed innocent Tamils, they said they were only getting Tigers. But really it was a genocide program to eliminate the Tamils.

"The Tamils were not considered citizens, even though they were living there for over 150 years. Our Ghandiyam peace group had projects to allow for voting rights. This was a reason why the government found me an enemy. They didn't want the Tamil vote. They wanted to use democracy in their favor. It was a very oppressive government."

"A lot of my friends were killed and sometimes right in front of me," Xavier added.

From bad to worse

In July 1987, the Sri Lankan Government and the Indian Government signed an accord to bring the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka. Their mission was to restore security in the Northeast. Some Tamil militant groups joined Indian forces while others, such as the LTTE, opposed their presence.

In the south, there was a strong Sinhalese opposition to the Indo-Sri Lanka accord and to the presence of troops in the North as well. There was an attempt to overthrow the government by an armed Sinhalese opposition party, the JVP (Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, People's Liberation Front) through a campaign of widespread violence.

At the end of March 1990, after much bloodshed, the Indian troops had all withdrawn from Sri Lanka. But heavy fighting began again between the LTTE and Sri Lanka Government forces in early June 1990.

In a public statement by Amnesty International in December 1990, "Gross and widespread human rights violations in Sri Lanka have persisted against a background of armed opposition against the government. 'Disappearances,' extrajudicial executions, torture and detention of political prisoners without charge or trial were regularly reported during the time that the Sri Lanka Government forces were responsible for the security of the Northeast, and while the Indian Peace Keeping Force was present."

Terrorism today

Robert (not his real name), a Catholic Sinhalese refugee from Columbo, moved to Canada one year ago. He says that the problem with terrorist groups across the country is that a lot of innocent citizens get killed, including Sinhalese.

"Sometimes the Tamil terrorist group (LTTE) kills 40-50 people at once, especially in the middle of the night. They come secretly from the jungles and shoot people or cut them to pieces, especially babies and women," said Robert.

"A Sinhalese today could get arrested for entering the Northern part of the country, and they could do whatever they want to him. But Sinhalese living in the Northern area are also at risk. They've been living there many years and they have nowhere else to live. It isn't safe to live there. Many have been attacked by terrorists.

"At random, the Sinhalese army shell bombs in the air in the

Northern part of the country (which has a high concentration of Tamils), putting both Tamil and Sinhalese people at risk. Revenge is taken on ordinary citizens who have no time to run or hide,"added Robert.

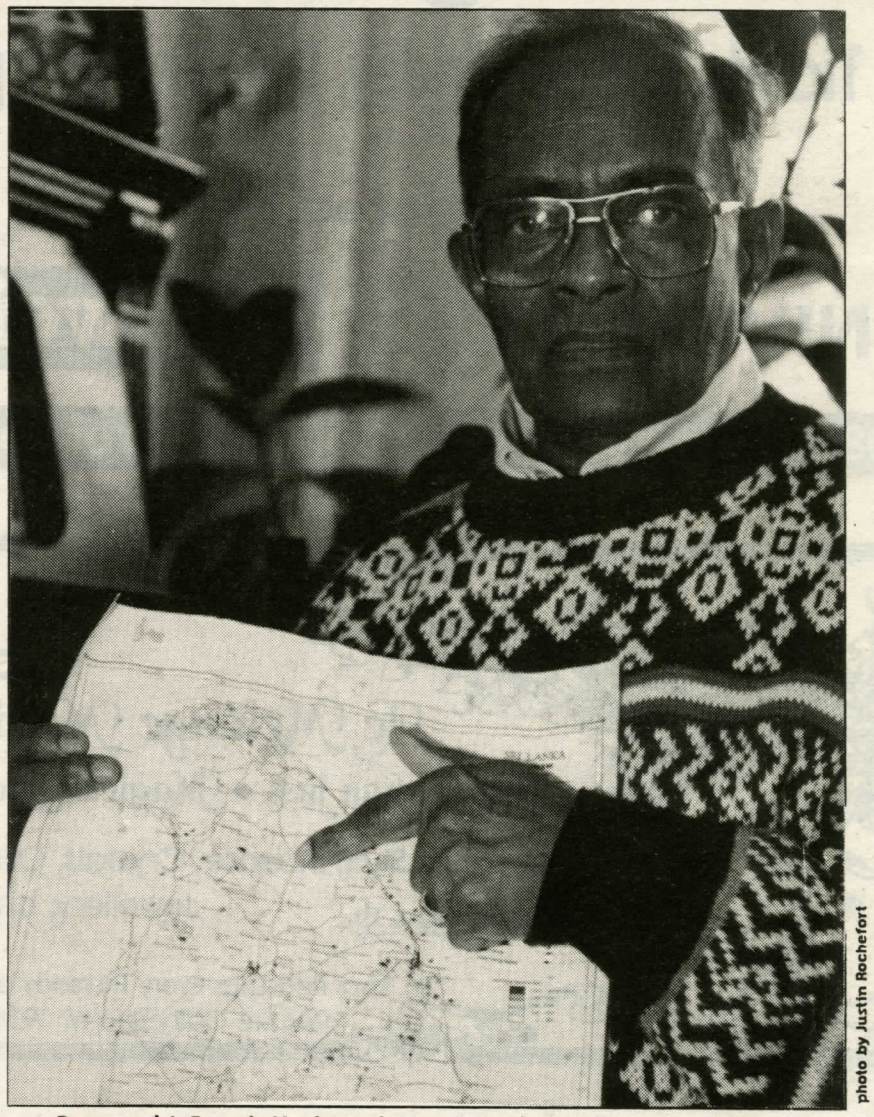

photo by Justin Rochefort

Reverand J. Francis Xavier points out Northern Sri Lanka, an area where many Tamils are concentrated.

Sri Lanka's 11-year civil war may be coming to a peaceful end. Former Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga was re-elected on November 9th with a majority of nearly 2 million votes, which political observers said was an unprecedented victory in the island's history. The minority population of the country had a tremendous influence in allowing her to beat her rival, Srima Dissanayake, of the United National Party by a 2-1 margin.

Dissanayake's husband, Gamini, was the original opposition candidate, but he was killed by a suicide bomb attack shortly before the election. Her late husband had initiated peace talks with the Liberation Tigers, who are now blamed with the murder.

"But we are sure it wasn't the Tamils because he is the first man that started the dialogue (between the Sinhalese government and the Tigers)," said Xavier. "He was a man who came to the North and told the people he would correct the injustices that have been done to us. We suspect that the UNP or the JVP might have been responsible for his death. But the papers will tell you it was the Tamils that shot him. Power puts false propaganda to make people think it was the LTTE," he added.

According to Robert, after the recent bomb blast two weeks ago, the Sinhalese people are still scared.

"The people fear that the Tamils are having terrorist connections. People fear because there are many terrorists (LTTE) members living in Columbo. They have a little fear in the back of their minds but they try not to show it."

With the advent of the new Prime Minister, Xavier says that many Tamils are hopeful.

"We are confident Chandrika will end the civil war. If she doesn't do it, we don't know who will. She is willing to negotiate with the Tigers without asking them to lay down arms, and that's what is so unique about the situation. She is taking radical steps for peace. The Tamils who have been depressed for so long are now hopeful."

Robert says that the Sinhalese people are also feeling hopeful.

"We are hoping for the best because Chandrika's father was killed in 1959, and he was a socialist. She's determined to finish this terrorism in the North and South."

He also added that he suspects that the opposition government lost badly because of the way the UNP party treated the Sinhalese youths in the past.

"The problem with the last government is that they were sending private armies to kill certain people who were against the government. A lot of innocent youths were killed at the time when they were suspected as traitors."

But he says he is still unsure of what will happen. "Although Chandrika has initiated peace talks with the Tigers, we still don't know if her party is honestly coming forward to stop the violence. "

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Military stranglehold persists in Nigeria

By Heather McGuffin

Nigeria's military government is showing its contempt for human rights by silencing opposition in the press, on the streets and in the courts, according to a recent Amnesty International report.

"The country is now facing one of the most serious human rights crises for decades," said the report.

Following the defeat of a pro-democracy strike in September, military ruler General Sani Abacha banned newspapers, made it easier to keep opponents in jail and decreed that his regime had absolute power.

The political struggle that began last year with an annulled election and continued with sweeping arrests is reaching new heights of terrorism, with armed attacks and firebombings against opponents of Abacha's regime.

Abacha's predecessor, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, annulled the June 1993 election that was to end a decade of military rule, before the total vote count was in. Some 200 people were killed in ensuing protests.

Widely believed to have won the presidential election is Moshood K.O. Abiola, a 57-year-old millionaire businessman. Abiola declared himself president on the first anniversary of the election, after Nigeria watched South Africa make a smooth transition to black majority rule.

Abiola was promptly arrested and charged with treason. At least five people were shot dead by police in subsequent riots.

Nneka Ezenwa, a third-year Concordia student, says the crushed election was a result of north-south tensions in Nigeria, principally between the rich and poor.

"It's the first time a southerner won an election since Independence. The people in the north don't want to give up the power," Ezenwa said. "It's a tribal feud between north and south.

Thousands of oil workers went on strike in July to protest Abiola's arrest, starting a new phase in the crisis. The strike devastated an already crippled economy. Oil exports, mostly to the United States, account for about 80 per cent of Nigeria's total earnings. In September oil workers caved in to the military government and ended the strike.

The military regime also closed three newspaper and magazine groups, including the most influential and respected in the country, the Guardian of Lagos. The others are Concord, which Abiola owns, and Punch.

General Abacha also issued eight decrees. One of them sets Abacha above the courts, denying them any jurisdiction over his regime. Another decree allows people to be detained for three months without being charged. Dozens of human-rights activists, labor leaders and pro-democracy politicians were arrested in the following weeks.

"The list of former senators, journalists and human-rights activists arrested by police is getting longer each day," said Amnesty International.

Abacha's decrees highlight his determination to continue ruling Nigeria, which has a quarter of Africa's population and is potentially one of the continent's richest nations.

Amnesty International is calling for other governments with influence in Nigeria to push the military government to end the killings, political imprisonment and other human rights violations.

Ezenwa, who's parents still live in Nigeria, says fellow Nigerians cannot protest the injustices for fear of reprisals from the military. She added that citizens are suffering because of the military's stranglehold over pricing on imports and exports. Prices of everyday staples like bread and rice have skyrocketed, while the standard of living has stagnated.

"They say it's worse than it's ever been," she said. "Now all you can do is hope and pray."

—additional reporting by Jennifer Ditchburn

Canadian government turns back on Tibet

by Chokey Tsering

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's recent trip to Asia brought lucrative deals for Canadian businesses. It was a step up for Canada's market economy in a competitive arena where the race for bilateral trade with Asia's growing market is hot with eager contestants. But for Tibetans everywhere the trip was a tragic betrayal. It represents prolonged tyranny under the brutal Chinese Communist regime.

In its May-June report, the Canada China Business Forum warned that Canada was lagging in international competition for China's market. Last year Canada fell from eighth to 14th place among exporters to China. China, now rated as owning the second largest economy in world trade with an annual economic growth of eight per cent, did about $30 billion in business with the U.S. last year. Canada already does approximately $5 billion annually with China. It relies on China for clothing, footwear, textiles and toys. In turn, China purchases Canadian grain, pulp and paper and electrical machinery. But not to be outdone by its competitors, Chrétien and his delegation were eager to reclaim their esteemed position in world trade. The result was the biggest trade delegation ever assigned in Canada which brought home commercial deals of over $10 billion involving Canadian businesses with Asia. Evidently, Canada's former policies on human rights have taken a back seat to the new agenda of economic co-operation and trade.

By doing business with China, Canada is contributing to and perpetuating the use of forced labour in China's notorious gulags and prison camps for the manufacturing of products for export. A large number of the products being sold in Canada and being worn and used by millions of unsuspecting Canadians are products of the blood, sweat and tears of countless prisoners whose only crime was a belief in truth and democracy.

Chrétien is obviously dedicated to fulfilling his promise of job creations during his leadership. Indeed, increased foreign trade will further this goal. But what is more vital to Canadian society is that Chrétien, as Prime Minister of this country, has a moral responsibility to a large number of Canadians who care about human rights. This kind of priority, which is one of the things that make democratic countries like Canada unique, has been thrown to the winds. Chrétien has prostituted himself and the values of the Canadian people for a $10 billion trade deal.

The Asia tour may also send the wrong message to communist-run governments like China. By placing human rights violations on a lower priority list the Canadian government becomes a silent contributor to the social disease of apathy — a source of much misery to oppressed nations like Tibet. Apathy turns a deaf ear to desperate pleas and merely plays lip service to moral ideals.

Tibet, once on independent country that served as a peaceful buffer state between China and India, was invaded and seized by the People's Liberation Army of China in 1949. More than 1.2 million Tibetans have lost their lives as a direct result of the occupation. Tibetans, now a minority in their own country, live in a climate of despair. Human rights records report thousands are in prison camps most of whom are monks and nuns; there are also reports of rape, forced abortions and sterilizations as a widespread system of birth control; the country's environment has been raped by deforestation and nuclear testing, contributing to an ecological disaster. More importantly, Tibetan Buddhism, the fundamental core of Tibetan civilization, is severely discouraged and tightly monitored and controlled. The beleaguered nation, whose fate lies in the hands of the Chinese government, faces a bleak future of cultural extinction. Each day brings more misery and deaths in a slow and steady path of systematic genocide. Chrétien's logic is that increased trade with China, a country whose records of human rights violations is staggering, will some day influence political reform. But for Tibetans who have already waited and suffered for almost half a century "someday" could be too late.

Human rights a must in foreign policy decisions : Report on Canada's Foreign Policy

The Special Joint Committee Reviewing Canadian Foreign Policy recently released a report on it's recommendations for Canada's foreign policy. The committee was created March 15, 1994, and submitted their final report Novermber 15, 1994.

Through a series of hearings with different witnesses from across the country, the committee drafted the report which reflects what Canadians want their foreign policy to be. Seems like Chretien hasn't done his reading.

"Foreign policy matters to Canadians. They have deep rooted values that they carry over into the role the want Canada to play — nurturing dialogue and compromise; promoting democracy, human rights, economic and social justice..." (pg 1)

"Canadians' deep commitment to human rights in particular is a thread that runs through this report.... They want Canadian foreign policy — our foreign policy — to contribute to that goal (human rights)." (pg 1)

"... Canadians (desire) to see their country continue to play a responsible and influential role in the world." (pg 3)

It seems, with the recent trip to China and Indonesia, that the government is pursuing it's own agenda and the agenda of its big business buddies.

The federal and provincial government go about their junkets, and don't seem to really care what Canadians want in regard to our foreign policy.

Obviously, human rights was not an issue in the recent trade talks with China or Indonesia. What Tianemen square thing?

What our "Team Canada" has really shown is that they are willing to sell Canada's collective soul for the almighty buck.

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Canada and U.S. turn their

Rioting in East Timor last week moved Indonesia's human rights record back into the international spotlight, as world leaders from 18 nations and a throng of foreign journalists converged in Jakarta for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Summit.

Thousands of East Timorese marched into the streets, chanting anti-Indonesian slogans and waving pro-independence banners in the Timorese provincial capital, Dili. Hundreds of demonstrators, commemorating the third anniversary of the Santa Cruz massacre where as many as 270 East Timorese were killed, were arrested when they clashed with soldiers.

In Indonesia's capital city Jakarta, 2,400 kilometers to the west, 29 East Timorese students staged a sit-in on the U.S Embassy compound. The students demanded that the U.S. pressure the Indonesian government to release an imprisoned leader of a guerilla movement fighting for independence.

The students' bid to meet with U.S president Bill Clinton failed, but their pleas for a free East Timor did not go unheard.

The Indonesian government tried to downplay the incidents, saying that the unrest stemmed from a problem in unemployment, rather than from a desire for independence.

Both President Clinton and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien raised the issue of human rights in discussions with Indonesia's President Suharto.

General Suharto, who has ruled the vast Indonesian archipelago with an iron fist since 1965, remained unmoved. Though he was sensitive to criticism concerning Indonesia's sovereignty over East Timor, General Suharto realized that he was unlikely to be penalized for not complying with Ottawa's or Washington's wishes.

Indeed, even as President Clinton was mixing talk of human rights with goals for freer trade in the Asia-Pacific region, top U.S officials were completing arrangements with General Suharto for 15 projects worth $40 billion over the next 10 years. Prime Minister Chrétien was following suit; with multi-million dollar investment packages signed and a commitment to increase aid.

The APEC summit, however, has provided an impetus for debate on the East Timorese two decade-old struggle for self-determination.

photo by Nanatha Kumar

Timorese women and men doing tribal dance in Dili

A legacy of turmoil

East Timor, located at the eastern periphery of the Indonesian archipelago, was for over three centuries the province of Portuguese Timor. West Timor was ruled by the Dutch and eventually merged with Indonesia in 1950.

During East Timor's long and often turbulent colonial history, it had received scant support from Portugal and thus remained underdeveloped. However, this lack of attention allowed the indigenous culture to survive relatively unscathed.

In 1974, the Caetano regime was toppled in Portugal, and the issue of decolonization was raised in Portuguese Timor.

Within months, three political parties emerged in East Timor: the radical group, Fretilin, formed with the political goal of independence; the more conservative UDT preferred gradual decolonization with a subsequent federation with Portugal, and the third party, APODETI, (which had little support) favoured integration with Indonesia.

A year later, Fretilin and UDT waged a three-week civil war, and the Portuguese colonial regime abandoned Timor. Once Fretilin won, it called on the Portuguese to resume the decolonization process.

When Portugal refused to return, Fretilin began implementing social and economic reforms. In November 1975, under the threat of an Indonesian invasion, Fretilin declared independence for East Timor. Two weeks later, Indonesia invaded, and has maintained a consistently poor human rights record ever since.

False propaganda

Representatives from the Indonesian Embassy in Ottawa refused to be interviewed by reporters of the Link, but the Embassy did issue a written statement depicting its role in East Timor.

"Far from 'disrupting the decolonization process' or from 'annexing, invading or or illegally occupying' another independent state, as some have previously charged, Indonesia's involvement in East Timor was, on the contrary, one of contributing to the process of decolonization in that territory, by helping to ensure that the democratically expressed will of the majority of people not be over ruled by the armed terror and unilateral imposition of a ruthless minority."

But, Indonesia did officially annex East Timor as its 27th province in 1976. Since the takeover, the United Nations has passed a series of resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Indonesia's forces from the territory. The UN still recognizes the Portuguese as the administering colonial power there.

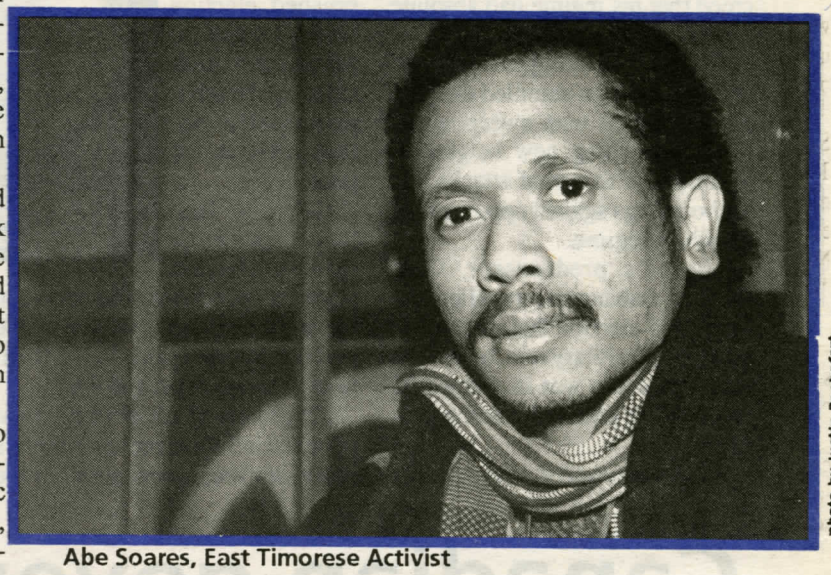

photo by Justin Rochefort

Abe Soares, East Timorese Activist

"Back in the early 70's when Vietnam was happening, and the whole communist boogey-man witch-hunt was underway, Fretilin was considered by Indonesia as a Marxist left-wing communist threat. So the Indonesians told the U.S. that there was a need to crush the communist insurgence," said Nantha Kumar, a journalist who has reported on East Timor for Montreal's Hour Magazine, and as a native of neighbouring Malaysia, he has a special interest in the country.

Kumar believes that Indonesia invaded and still occupies East Timor for three reasons:

First, an independent East Timor could spell a potential upheaval in the region's stability. As the archipelago contains more than 300 cultural groups, some of whom want independence, a sovereign East Timor would be seen as a "dangerous" precedent, leading to the other groups also clamouring for self-rule. This would lead to a fracturing of power and resources for Indonesia.

Secondly, East Timor has oil fields off its coast. Experts claim that this oil seabed could yield some of the most abundant sources of oil in the world.

Finally, East Timor is seen by the Suharto regime as a place to resettle the overpopulated islands of Java and West Papua. The government program called 'transmigration' is intended to create a ruling political elite of Javanese settlers who are loyal to Indonesia. Thus, over time, the influx of newcomers is hoped to quell the resistance movement.

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backs on East Timor tragedy

by Mickey Bhuiyan

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"Most people were killed in the late 70's. It was the peak of the atrocities," said Abe Soares, a native Timorese who is now an independence activist in North America. "People were walking around the villages looking like skeletons. They eventually died of starvation or disease. Also, guerillas who surrendered to the army were executed. Independence sympathizers off of helicopters or

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What's really sad, is people who are really e who live very much Mother Earth. The tiful languages and e forced to become s brainwashing and es the people more ggle to be free."

Soares echoes Kumar's sentiments on Indonesia's insincerity between stated policy and practice.

"When I was in high school, most of the teachers were brought in by the Indonesians. They were brainwashing young minds to study Indonesian ideology, history, culture and language," Soares said.

He added that Javanese culture forced the Timorese to suppress their natural urges and instead adopt an alien way of life.

"The average Timorese person: the farmer, the peasant, the fisherman and the merchant; is very expressive and spontaneous. With the Javanese culture, we were forced to be quiet and restrained."

Rule by the iron rod

Besides their assimilation tactics, the occupying forces either fight the indigenous people directly, or else try to "Timorize" the war by conscripting indigenous soldiers and exploiting internal conflicts for its own ends.

This divide and conquer tactic was used in all spheres of life, in trying to placate the Timorese, according to Soares, who's uncle was trained by the military to fight his own people.

"We understand completely that they have no choice. It's either do as the military says or suffer and maybe die. Sometimes you do as they say and still get killed. You are at the mercy of the 'master'." Soares said.

The most recent Amnesty International report on Indonesia describes the dichotomy between the surface glitter and the pale reality.

"Indonesia. The tourist brochures show a country thronging with happy people in an idyllic rural setting, exotic and colourful. But there is another Indonesia which the tourist seldom see: a country ruled with an iron rod, where dissent is punished by torture, imprisonment and death."

President Suharto's New Order government, which has been ruling East Timor since the 1975 invasion, is a military-dominated system. The two official political "opponents" are forbidden to criticize the government, and are forced to pledge allegiance to the state ideology. President Suharto has won every 'multi-party' election virtually uncontested.

According to Amnesty International, the military instructions issued to Indonesia's army prescribe policies which have resulted in violations of the most basic of human rights in East Timor; including rights recognized internationally as never to be violated in any circumstances.

Speaking in 1993, the Catholic Bishop of East Timor, Oam Ximenes Belo described the denial of fundamental rights in Timor:

"People are not allowed the possibility to speak differently, to hold a different opinion...They are also denied the fundamental right to express what they would like to be politically...The military says they don't beat anyone, that they respect the people, that they work for the propriety of the people. But for me its a pure lie. From 1983 until now, I have heard only lies from them."

Kumar, who visited Timor in 1990, says that people he met showed signs of being intimidated and harassed.

"My impression was that if you stop someone on the street and the person is afraid to talk to you—looking around to see who's watching—that's a pretty clear indication that people are living in fear." Kumar said, "Also, almost every Timorese I met had scars on their bodies. And everyone I met lost at least one relative in the war."

photo by Nanatha Kumar

Timorese woman coming back from collecting grass to rebuild their hut.

Brutality against women

The list of human rights abuses that the Indonesian government is alleged to have committed in East Timor, as investigated by independent organizations such as Human Rights Watch Asia and Amnesty International, is as lengthy as it is grisly.

Yet the violations described against the East Timorese women are among the most insidious. There are descriptions of women who are systemically murdered, sexually assaulted, kidnapped and forcibly sterilized. Also Indonesian soldiers raped many women in front of their families and such rapes often led to pregnancies.

Soares describes his memories of the suppression of women in East Timor, before he left in 1985, as sheer brutality.

"I have relatives who had to marry Indonesian military men. Many women were abandoned and left to bear and raise babies of the enemy. It's like for the sake of survival, you sell your body, your life and a child's life. But they had no choice," Soares said. "Rape was another way to weaken the spirit of resistance."

In the last couple of months leading up to the APEC summit the situation became much more tense, according to Amnesty International's Secretary General Pierre Sane, in a recent Bangkok address.

He describes measures which the government has taken to quash dissent. For instance, the government has prevented seminars, cultural events, and professional meetings throughout the country, and has invoked an obscure law that requires police permission for meetings of more than five people.

The banning of Indonesia's three leading news magazines choked the country's only forum for public debate or dissent.

Also, a drafted presidential decree, now in its final stages of official approval, will prevent non governmental organizations (NGOs) from any involvement in politics and allow straight governmental control of their finances and activities.

In the run up to last week's summit, the government flooded Jakarta with 15,000 military and police officers to clear the streets of the "undesirable" element in a movement called "Operation Cleansing."

Over the last couple of weeks, the government has been jailing trade union organizers and people who oppose the governments allocation of land development projects.

"The government tries to brush off these violations as isolated incidents or as the work of a few poorly-disciplined soldiers, when in fact they are the by-product of a network of institutions, procedures and policies, which the government uses to crush perceived threats to stability and order," Sane said.

International community silent

Sane went on to admonish the international community for providing increased investment and aid to Indonesia despite the gross and persistent violations occur ing there.

"What's scandalous is that foreign governments have let the Indonesian authorities get away with it for so long, apparently selling the country only as an economic prize and strategic lynch pin." Sane said.

With the fourth largest population in the world, a vast store of natural resources and the lowest paid labour force in South-East Asia, Indonesia indeed has always been seen as an economic prize.

Both the U.S. and Canada have provided Indonesia with abundant economic, military and political support; while paying lip service to the clear evidence of systematic human rights violations in Timor.

Though North America has curtailed the shipment of some military armaments, both countries continue to flood Indonesia with aid and investment—as glaringly evident at last week's APEC summit.

In recent years, the Indonesian government has complied with international pressure to protect human rights in East Timor. It has established a national Human Rights Commission and has punished a few soldiers and police officers responsible for human rights violations.

Pierre Sane describes these measures as typical.

"...human rights violations have continued unabated," Sane said. "The police and military torturers and killers have continued to get away with their crimes. And the government's human rights activities seem to be designed mainly to improve its image in international circles."

Nonetheless, the Indonesian government has instigated some discussions with Fretilin and independence sympathizers. Despite deadlock on substantive issues, the fact that dialogues have been occuring can be seen as a trickle of progress.

When discussing the future of the Timorese continuing resistance movement, Kumar seemed optimistic.

"To resist is the fight', according to Xanana, the jailed independence leader. The fact that after all these years they have not given up the struggle is a sign that the East Timorese hope that one day they will win." Kumar said.

Soares, with restrained optimism, also hopes for a better future for his people.

"Because of international pressure, a revolution in the conscience of people, and continued struggle by my people, I don't believe Indonesian rule will last forever," Soares said. "It will take patience and time to change government policies-like South Africa. But that country is free, I'm optimistic that East Timor will be free. But it will also take time to heal the wounds."

South African government under Mandela struggling to follow through on promises

by Marie-Chantal Côté

Nelson Mandela's election as President of South Africa last spring seemed a victory for justice and freedom in country scarred by the consequences of Apartheid, a policy of racial segregation implemented by a racist white government in 1948.

But six months later, the picture is not quite so rosy. Both South Africa's population and political experts have mixed feelings about Mandela's ability to make the changes he promised in his platform.

Michel Lambert, responsible for the projects for the "Centre d'information et de documentation du Mozambique et de l'Afrique Australe" believes that the South African government has not made many changes since elected.

"The minority (white population) still has enormous privileges when it comes to employment or education. The government has a lot of difficulty changing the population's ideas. It will take one or two generations for things to change," Lambert said.

Lambert explains this societal paralysis by the fact that the South African population was stratified into four racial layers for half a century. At the top were whites, representing 13 per cent of the population; at the bottom, blacks, representing 76 per cent of the population.

Elizabeth Morey, a member of the Oxfam Canada delegation that was sent to South Africa to observe the elections, is not as pessimistic.

"Racism doesn't disappear overnight, but they (South Africans) are moving in the right direction," she said.

She said that many believe the absence of civil wars and conflict between extremist blacks and whites is a sign of positive change.

"There was a survey done among the white minority which showed that peace is the top priority for them, even before business," added Lambert.

He even admits that the population is more aware of the discrimination that plagued its institutions and government, an awareness which he says unites them to stop it.

Rising crime rate

But not everyone thinks this process of change to be rapid enough. Some critics feel that the amount of change is insufficient and want Mandela to be more active in promoting progress.

Critics who charge that change is not occurring fast enough are disturbed by the rising crime rate, by the 45 per cent unemployment rate within the black population and by the fact that blacks only earn on average one third of what whites earn.

Education is another concern, as blacks did not have access to proper public schooling during the Apartheid regime. Although Mandela has implemented free education at the primary level, critics charge that this change is not enough to make a significant impact on the quality of education in South Africa.

Monetary shortfall

South Africa's financial woes do not make Mandela's job any easier.

"All the social programs needed to build the promised 300,000 low-cost housing or to provide the townships with drinking water or electricity cost an enormous amount of money," argued Lambert.

Mandela's African National Congress expected to pay for these social programs by reducing the number of ministries from 17 to one and by eliminating the part of the army usually deployed in civil wars, but the savings proved insubstantial to cover the costs incurred by all the country's needs.

Lambert said that Mandela had to borrow from the International Monetary Fund, under the condition that he would not spend the money on important social programs. He also borrowed from the United States under similar conditions.

"It's naive to think that Mandela can automatically make all these changes, and to think that the international community gives money without restrictions," added Morey.

Mandela was able, at election time, to convince each group that he would improve their lifestyles, but now he's stuck —Lambert

Transfer of territory

Another problem faced by Mandela's government is finding a way to give more territory to South Africa's black population, which possessed only 13 per cent of the land during apartheid. During the elections, Mandela promised whites that he wouldn't take their land away without financial compensation, but the government doesn't have the money now to pay this land.

"In order to help solve this problem, he created the National Land Commission which will look into different alternatives," said Lambert.

Another big problem disrupting South African politics is the lack of experienced leaders at both the local and national levels. When the elections were called, most people who submitted candidacies were important members of civil society, which mediates between individuals and structured government. This phenomenon left civil society bereft of its grass roots politicians. Mandela is hoping to re-build this integral part of a democratic nation, but meanwhile the country is suffering.

Critics also express concern at Mandela's loss of control of the political apparatus which he heads.

As Mandela must cater to and juggle the interests of the white community, the black community, his political party, the communities he borrowed money from, the syndicates and the rising communist party, he is unable to fully commit himself to the majority that put him in power.

"He was able, at election time, to convince each group that he would improve their lifestyles, but now he's stuck," explained Lambert. "He has to make compromises on the sides of both whites and blacks, but over the years the black majority has made much more compromises."

Watchdogs

cont'd from page 5

abusers would be a new U.N. military force.

"All of these measures are useful but they need to be reinforced by by the threat of intervention by a rapid deployment military unit such as the U.N. was always intended to possess," he said.

Bringing abusers to justice

Howard agrees that the U.N. needs an international army, but emphasizes the importance of bringing the perpetrators to justice.

"Trying perpetrators for war crimes is very important," she said. "It acknowledges to victims an injustice has been done to them. If it is not acknowledged, there is the potential for other genocides and counter genocides to take place."

"Trials demonstrate to the survivors of gross violations of human rights that personal revenge is unnecessary because the international community and their own government is committed to bringing perpetrators to justice," Chalk said.

"They also allow the citizens of countries in which gross violations of human rights have taken place to live together in peace, secure in the knowledge that the guilty have been punished and that those who have not been punished need not be suspected of having committed crimes," he added.

Globinsky of the Centre for Human Rights recognizes the importance of trials in practice. He said that his organization is presently in negotiations with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti to set up a Truth and Justice Commission to try the leaders of the military regime who were granted amnesty despite their horrific human rights record.

Chalk is worried about the trend of granting amnesty to perpetrators of abuse, in the cases of Chile, Guatemala and El Salvador particularly. Allowing perpetrator parties to join coalition governments as in the case of Cambodia, where the Khmer Rouge was allowed to join the ruling coalition, also makes a mockery of the Nuremberg tribunal precedent established at the end of World War II to try Nazi war criminals.

"So long as the international community lacks the will to force perpetrators to lay down their guns and to take their guns away if they do not cooperate, the Nuremberg precedent will be hollow and irrelevant," he said.

Despite efforts by the United Nations and international organizations to curtail human rights abuse in Rwanda, Somalia, the former Yugoslavia, Liberia and Cambodia, the instances of human rights abuse are still present globally. Nations continue to trade with countries which are human rights violators, and will only go so far in financing U.N. missions.

As Chalk says, "In each of these countries, human rights continue to be violated and no solutions are in sight."

Salaries

continued from page 3

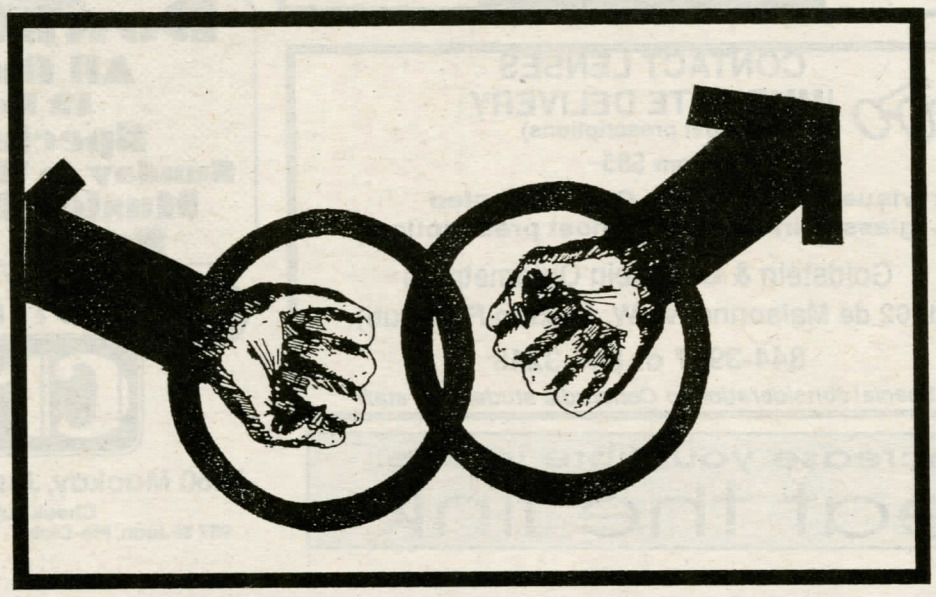
should immediately explore whether it has the legal means to rescind these benefits already being offered to some, or make efforts to negotiate an end to them;

- the Board should modify its procedures so that in future all decisions of the Senior Salaries Committee of the Board require the approval of the Board itself.

Interim vice-rector Institutional Relations and Finance Hal Proppe, who first responded to CUFA on behalf of the university, did not return *the Link's* calls. Vice-rector Academic Robert Parker, who received a copy of Stelcner's letter, refused to comment.

Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals continue fight for human rights

by Stephanie Pajevic



The gay and lesbian community's struggle for recognition of basic legal and human rights, has been challenged every step of the way. Simple work-related and social benefits which heterosexual couples take for granted are yet to be enjoyed by same-sex couples.

James Egan and John Nesbit, a couple who have been together for the last 46 years, are fighting for the right to be treated as legal spouses. Egan, 73, was denied spousal benefits for Nesbit, 69, when he applied for them in 1986 upon receiving his pension. Currently, they are fighting their case at the Supreme Court of Canada, after losing their Federal Court of Appeal case.

This is not the first time the Supreme Court has dealt with gay rights issues. Last year, Brian Mossop, a gay federal employee, fought for work-related benefits he would have received if his partner was female. The court ruled that he was not eligible for the benefits on the basis that Mossop and his partner did not constitute the definition of a "family."

Last July, in Toronto, Jim Rawson applied for spousal death benefits following the death of his partner, Anglican priest James McCue. The death benefits are part of a pension coverage that every Anglican priest pays for and which, upon death, the surviving spouse is entitled to claim. His request was turned down and now Rawson, 35, has decided to fight the church. He has lodged a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Custody of Children

When it comes to adopting children or having a child through artificial insemination, gay and lesbian couples are met with a more difficult challenge. If the biological parent suddenly dies, the other partner, who helped raise the child, has no legal rights to the child. And same-sex spouses of Canadian citizens cannot take advantage of the family reunification provisions of Canada's Immigration Act.

Efforts to end these discriminatory practices and extend equal rights to gays and lesbians have been challenged by people such as Liberal MP Roseanne Skoke. She opposes a proposed phrase in Bill C-41, which calls for special penalties if an offence is committed against a person because the accused hates that person's race, gender, religion or sexual orientation.

The new legislation would include homosexuals and lesbians in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, making it illegal to discriminate against someone for their sexual orientation.

Skoke has been quoted as saying that by granting special rights and status to the gay and lesbian community it would be "undermining and destroying our Canadian values and Christian morality."

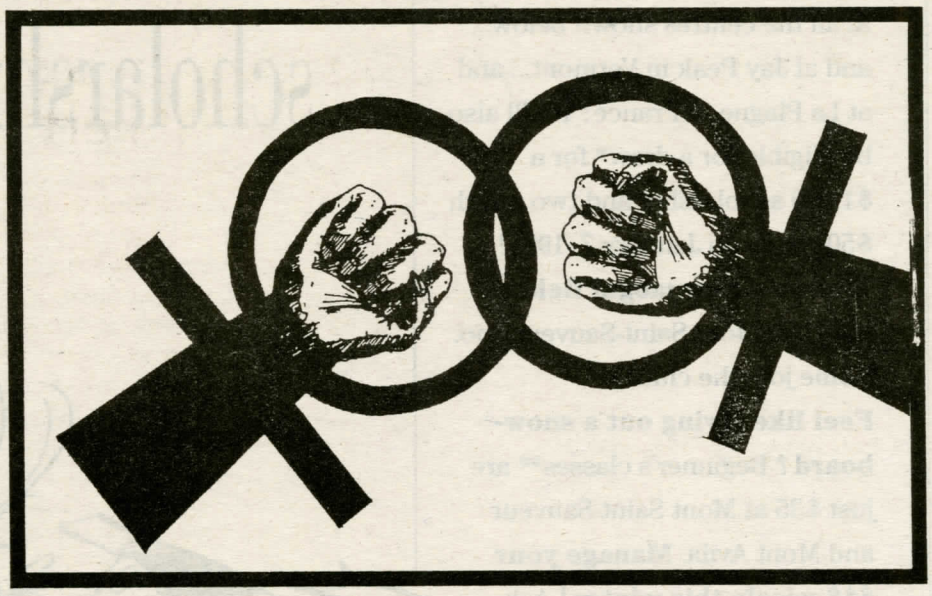
Taking action in parliament

Bloc Quebecois member Réal Ménard and New Democrat Svend Robinson, the two openly gay MPs in parliament, have both called for the Liberal party to reprimand Skoke. But the PM has not yet taken action.

John Fisher of EGALE (Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere) a national lobby group says that the Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's reaction to Skoke's remarks was weak.

"He should have made it clear that her opinions don't represent the party's. This would not have been tolerated if it had been about any other minority," he said.

however, Fisher feels that things are well on the way and



that MPs who have Skoke's opinions are in the minority.

Bloc MP Réal Ménard feels that it will be a close call on the passing of the Bill. "There are about 60 Liberal MPs who are against the passing of the bill, as well as the majority of the Reform party. But the majority of the Bloc will vote for it," Ménard said. Ménard will also be presenting a proposal which hopes to change 41 Canadian laws with regards to giving the same rights and benefits heterosexual couples have.

Justice Minister Allan Rock has made it clear that he would not remove the term sexual orientation from the Bill. He has also stated that he will not dignify suggestions made by other MPs that its inclusion would somehow promote pedophilia.

According to Montreal lawyer Mariette Pilon, who defends gay-rights, while the government won't accord spousal benefits for same-sex couples, some private companies will.

"There are large companies who are giving benefits to same-sex couples, an example being Bell Canada. However, companies are not obliged to do this as it is not the law," Pilon said.

Some of the battles won

The gay and lesbian community has nonetheless won some of its battles. The first was overcome in 1977, when the Parti Quebecois government changed the Quebec Charter of Human Rights to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Quebec was the first province to do so.

The next battle won was the Quebec Human Rights Commission's report which came out last June. The report was the result of six days of public hearings in November. The report made 41 recommendations which included same-sex rights to pension, retirement, insurance and other benefits which heterosexual common-law couples receive. However, the commission did not touch the subject of adoption by a same-sex couple, saying that this matter would need further investigation.

But there have been many defeats as well, most recently the rejection of Bill 167 in Ontario which would have ensured benefits for same-sex couples. The Ontario NDP government was badly shaken last June when a dozen New Democrats, including two cabinet ministers, joined the opposition in voting against the bill. The gay and lesbian community felt betrayed by the NDP government for holding a free vote in the first place.

An earlier defeat was in Toronto in 1991, when Metro Toronto's management committee voted against a proposal that would have extended health benefits to include same-sex spouses of its employees.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission only added sexual orientation as a basis for discrimination two years ago. The decision followed the outcome of Graham Haig and Joshua Birch's case in Toronto, where the couple asked for work-related spousal benefits. They had won their case on the basis of discrimination because of their sexual orientation.

Now, groups like EGALE and LEGIT (Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force) are lobbying the government to end discrimination of gays and lesbians.

Mossop had lost his case because it was on the basis that he and his partner formed a family. The Hag and Birch case had won because they fought on the basis of discrimination.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission has been pressuring the government to change the law so that it applies to discrimination against sexual orientation.

Every province's Human Rights Commission, with the exception of Alberta and the North West Territories, have formally accepted sexual orientation as motive for discrimination.

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Naraghi's concern for humanity starts at home

by Wasela Hiyate

The Naraghi family has given the international literary community some of the most important Islamic poets and philosophers of our time. Akhtar Naraghi, a former professor of Persian literature at McGill University, is keeping faith with her family tradition. In her recently released novel, **The Big Green House**, she incorporates the story of a young woman's coming of age with her basic belief in feminism, humanity and political freedom —issues that have a personal meaning for her.

Naraghi's fiction, described as a novel in twelve stories,.is simple and elegant —reminiscent of the sparse poetic style found in her collection of poems entitled **Legacy: Selected Poems**. Her poetry, Naraghi admits, is inclined to make her melancholy, although her subjects themselves range from desire to politics. This range of subject matter is also evident in her fiction.

In **The Big Green House**, the unnamed protagonist matures from age five to nineteen, and the setting changes from Iran to Germany to Canada within twelve stories. Naraghi brought up the autobiographical aspect of her novel, comparing the act of writing to that of making a quilt: scraps of imagined detail and bits of true life are sewn together, comprising the narrative.

The young woman of **The Big Green House** has been compared to Faulker's Dilsey from **The Sound and The Fury** because of her spirit to endure. While survival may be the larger theme of the novel, certain stories deal with other issues that deeply concern Naraghi.

In *Dolls*, the protagonist as a young girl and her cousin perform a mock marriage with their new dolls, mimicking the ceremony of an actual wedding. Later the cousin insists on taking the beautful bride doll, as is customary after a real marriage. Naraghi's protagonist vows to find a way to retrieve the doll, and is finally inspired by the divorce of the actual married couple. In this story, Naraghi has found a subtle means of exploring the issues of spousal abuse and divorce through a questioning and determined narrator, in a part of the world where such issues are not discussed.

Naraghi admits that her kind of feminism is based on the essential elements of security, or what she calls "absence of fear", peace and justice. Her idea is that feminism should be a unifying force that brings together women and men of all communities and countries. She founded the Helen Prize for Women in order to award women for their gifts to humanity, the arts, the economy, education, peace, and politics (to name just a few categories)

Believing firmly in the presence of the female perspective in literature, Naraghi said that "when women suffer from problems rooted in unequal relationships in their work places, in their families and in society as a whole, these problems will be reflected, whether women writers want it or not, in their creative writing." Because of this, feminist writing is indispensable, otherwise an aspect of literature is missing.

Naraghi also writes revisionist literary criticism. That is, she examines literature (specializing in epic poetry) from a feminist perspective. She used Homer's **Odyssey** as an example, discussing the need for Telemachus to make his mother Penelope subservient to him in order for him to enter manhood. This is an aspect of the well-known tale that has not been examined by literary criticism since it has, for the most part, been written by men.

Naraghi cited a few specific incidents that inspired concern in human rights. During a Mardi Gras ball she was invited to in Louisiana during the 1980s, she was struck by the white old-south upper class and their employees: black servants.

She also mentioned the gathering force of the neo-Nazi movement in Germany. Today, racist hostilities are on open display in that country, although Naraghi was quick to point out that many Germans don't sympathize with the new movement.

Her story *Ausländer* (foreigner in German) from **The Big Green House**, describes her fourteen year-old protagonist's struggle to adapt to a new country and European culture. In the story, she is seduced by certain aspects of Germany such as young waitresses, and clean streets. Later the young narrator is disillusioned when she is not accepted at school because of her different accent, and wants desperately to return to her familiar Persia. Through hard work and perseverance she gradually wins over her peers, although the shadow of racism does not disappear entirely from her life.

In discussing racism, Naraghi suggested that Canada did not have the kinds of problems other countries suffered from because of our notion of multicultralism. Because Canada is, essentially, a country of immigrants we lead a sort of double life. In the first reality, we deal with each other as Canadians, in institutions and public life. But in the home environment we have our own language and culture —we eat our own foods and follow different traditions. The community is what saves people from alienation in Canada.

She admits that it is not an easy task dealing with larger publishing houses in Canada. Small presses, long known for taking more risks on emerging, women, and minority writers are the publishers to deal with. She herself didn't go with a larger publisher because she was granted more artistic freedom with Editions Cedah.

In other chapters, or stories in **The Big Green House**, issues such as poverty and the right to political expression are touched on. In *Sharbanu*, our young narrator helps a sick and destitute woman by giving her, unwittingly, her father's monthly wages. In another story called *The German Tutor* the narrator and her siblings help to hide a young Persian student trying to escape from their secret police because of an uprising.

Akhtar Naraghi's concerns for humanity are expressed in her writing, and in her involvement with many different communities and organizations. She is, like her narrator, a determined woman, committed to action and to people. Pleasantly surprised by the sale of her poetry book **Legacy: Selected Poems** (which went into a second printing — no small feat for poetry in Canada), and by the success of her novel, she will launch a new book of poetry on March 21st,1995, coinciding with the Persian new year.

The Big Green House
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Experimental Poetry

If you're in the mood for a dramatic evening, drop in The Maison de la Culture Mondiale on a Monday night. Every second Monday of the month, during their spoken word show "Maux-dits/ Mots-dits", Montreal poets read in French, Spanish and infrequently, in English in the dark, candle-lit atmosphere of the cafe.

Last week the line-up included Éric Roger, Abelardo-Flores Maccell and Laurent Cauchon. The three performed their poems and the works of favourite poets from a variety of nations — from French African poets to Jim Morrison.

Although the chants of the background ambient music sometimes drowned out the readers, the crowd sipped and munched the exotic coffees and cuisine that the cafe offers, not minding in the least.

Mondiale, located at 3812 St Laurent, was a packed house by nine o'clock, so if you plan to attend, get there on time. Readings start at 8:30. On other Monday nights expect interactive theatre and storytelling.

-Wasela Hiyate

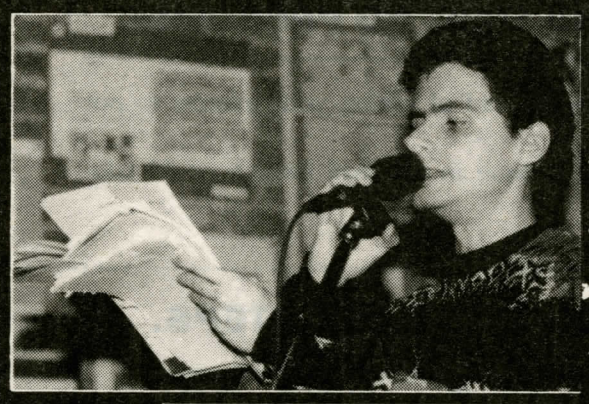

photo by Georges Paquin

Laurent Cauchon reading at Maison de la culture, Mondiale

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A choreographed presentation in Les Maux-Dits last Monday night.

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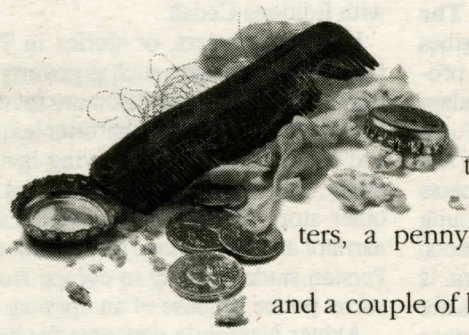

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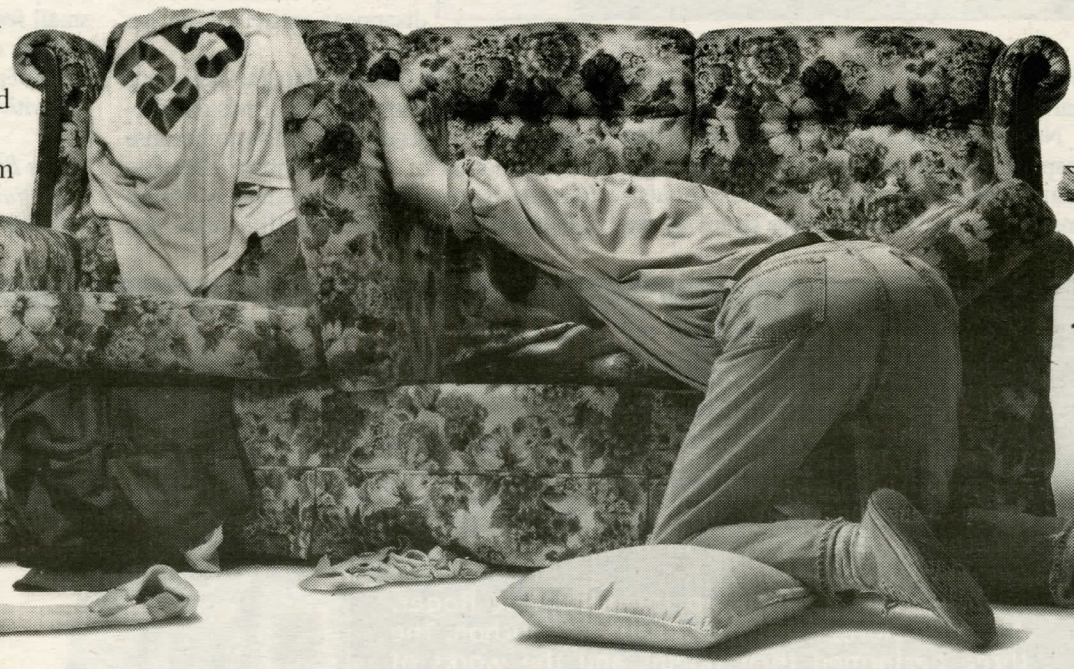

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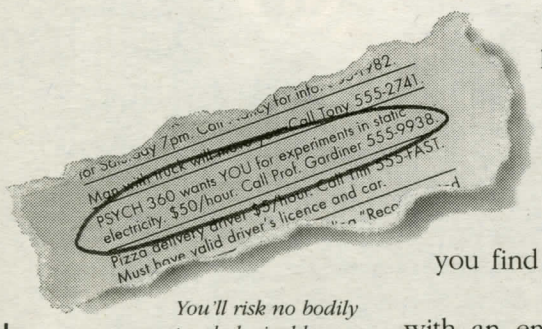

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Go Fish

by Paul Cherry

Go Fish is a film that can confront you without you even knowing it. It is a lesbian film that delivers its message with a kind of wit and humor that could work just as well in any mainstream heterosexual comedy.

The film centers around the eventual matching up of Max and Ely, thought to be the perfect couple by their friends. The humorous situations that this pairing creates is where director Rose Troche, making her feature length debut, does her best work.

Ely and Max are put through the trying and sometimes embarrassing moments that can occur in any relationship. Such as when Ely's phone machine takes a message from a past lover during her first romantic moment with Max.

What this film can reveal to a mainstream audience is the universality of the nuances of a relationship between two people. At one point Roche gives her audience a sort of lesbian version of the relationship film He Said, She Said. This comes in the "morning after" scene where Ely recalls the encounter as a macho aggressor, while Max imagines herself as a seductress. Both flashbacks are exaggerated when compared to what really happened which the audience witnesses first.

Because of its budget the film is

shot in black and white but that does not stop Roche from keeping the viewer entertained. The film is filled with neat tricks like putting one of the characters on a mock trial by her peers for having sex with a man. The scene comes off as a sort of reverse image of a homophobic society and in doing so reveals that homosexual society has its own set of unwritten rules and biases.

Most importantly, from an entertainment standpoint, the film does not get preachy. The film does not take itself too seriously. One unusual technique that Troche uses to do this is by having some of the characters comment on how the film is progressing at certain interyals. The conversations that these "commentators" have, provide some of the humorous highlights of the film.

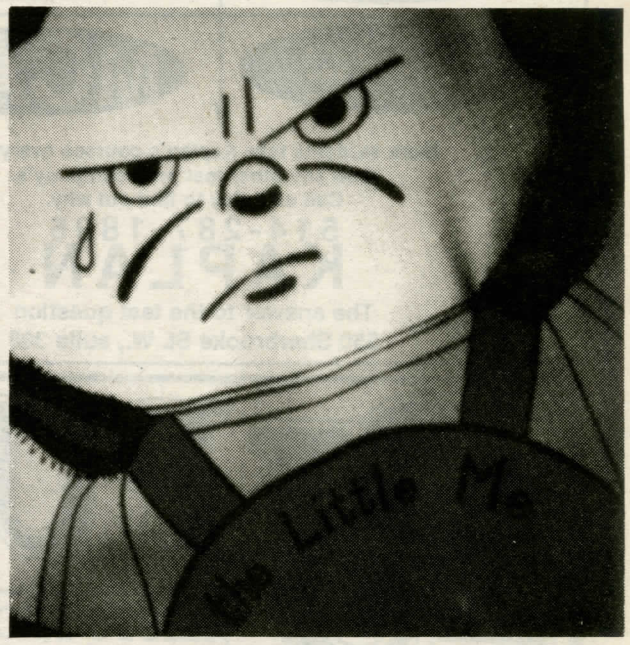
Go Fish *is playing at the Cinema de Paris from November 18 to December first.*

Hot buttered King on the Cobb

by Mars Aladas

Blending musical genres is no stranger to the mainstream. Rock/rap and similar melanges have been around for years, generating millions in album sales and spawning thousands of new sounds. Then comes **King Cobb Steelie** (KCS), mixing genres from an endless background of global musical influences, including hip hop, jazz, reggae and rock, with just enough of 'todayness' to to make it current. These six boys from Guelf, Ontario are no rip-off artists.

"We all have huge record collections," states **Kevan Byrne**, singer-guitarist extraordinaire, "because we're all big fans of music. Working in a used record store for seven years and in college radio for several of those I was exposed to a lot of different forms of music I wouldn't have otherwise had a chance to hear."



Born and bred on the many sounds our generation grew up on, Kevan switched gears more times than most, giving him the opportunity to draw from such a diverse collection of influences in creating the KCS sound,

"I started listening to Gang of Four, The Clash and the like when I was a kid ,then more hardcore stuff like Black Flag, Dead Kennedys, and Minutemen. As I got older I got more into reggae like King Tubby to later on listening to a lot of hip-hop, like Eric B and Rakim. Now I'm listening to a lot of House and Techno like the new American Music Club album, I like that a lot."

This diversity of musical influences is certainly evident on *Project Twinkle*, released on Lunamoth, owned by themselves and their parent label EMI, and run by band manager Amy Hersenhorn. With Lunamoth, KCS are afforded the luxury of having the creative control and independence an indie label gives them, while still having a lot of the advantages of a major, including major distribution and an abundance of financial resources. Their previous label, Raw Energy offered little in comparison.

This creative energy was harnessed in the studio through the production of **Bill Laswell**, who KCS felt got the rich, textured sound they desired. Laswells' album checklist includes Motorhead, Iggy Pop, and The Ramones. His own label, Axiom, fuses the sounds of more cultural music, like the Master Musicians of Jajuka from Morocco.

"His most famous and at the same time most embarrassing record he's produced was a solo Mick Jagger record, I think it was *Primitive Cool*," adds Byrne between chuckles.

Politics are certainly an issue in much of the music KCS draws upon, which is no surprise, but a close listen reveals a more subtle politicism within *Project Twinkle*.

"We are more personally political in our lyrics, but there is no such thing as a King Cobb Steelie political philosophy. I think that for a lot of the music that influenced us, the extreme political views gives the music an energy and drive that is hard to achieve any other way. With us the words aren't necessarily secondary, but as essential to our sound."

Today's music scene, where alternative is king, gives chances to bands who would have at other times faded into obscurity, but at the same time, still alienates bands who don't exactly fit the mold.

Byrne explains where KCS fits in this scene, and where is it's going.

"I analyse that a lot these days.I think we're sort of an anomaly right now. But as far as where the current scene is going, I think there is a lot to be said for cross-genre music. I just recently saw a band in England who called the music they were doing "Trip Hop", I think that's where music's going to head, personally."

With a video coming out soon for *Slump* , KCS' second single, a second cross-Canada tour coming up, and American and European releases slated for January, KCS have some work ahead, but with perhaps the next "big thing" in the midst, it may be only the beginning.

The Ups and Downs of Cancer

by David King

It's your turn to crawl up the ladder and get to the top of your life. Due to unforeseen circumstances, however, you keep sliding back down. So you keep going, anAd you keep climbing, and you keep falling, until finally you come to realize that the only way to reach the top is to know what survival really means.

Sound like your grades? Your job? Your love life? Life in general?

To the cast and crew of *Snakes and Ladders* at the D.B. Clark Theatre over the next couple of weeks, it means cancer, and all different forms thereof. In this play, it promises to make all the right moves.

For the first time ever, Con **U's Theatre Department** has collaborated with **Youtheatre** to bring us the world premiere of **Sherry Coman's** new play. Directed by **Micheline Chevrier**, the play revolves around the inner and outer lives of Luis (Con U grad Vik Sahay), a young boy battling his second relapse of leukemia. Set in the Oncology Ward of a hospital in Anytown, Anywhere, the defiant adolescent is haunted by recurring visions of snakes. Through his own inner musical voice and through his interaction with others, Luis begins to come face to face with the true meaning of his existence.

In this play, the board game 'Snakes and Ladders' is used as a visual and psychological metaphor. Luis' visions of red snakes, representing his fears, grapple with the ladders of the play, which, as playwright Coman points out, "represent Luis' love and understanding of the people around him".

Even the original music by the talented **Cathy Nosata** (*Fatso*) metaphorically depicts Luis' inner world of classical music and soundscapes. Adds Coman, "Cathy uses elements of sound and texture to reveal fears and hopes, and it's really effective."

Quick in stating that she "writes for young people, but not necessarily for young audiences", Coman describes the serious nature of the play's content.

" The play is about cancer", says Coman, "but it's upbeat. Here we are dealing with survival, conquering, growing up, moving on...." Anyone at any age can find something in it for their own lives."

Coman, who hails from Toronto and is half American, did her BA at McGill in English before taking off to L.A. for her MFA in Screenwriting at the American Film Institute's Centre for Advanced Studies. The writer of such works as *Say Zebra* and *Concessions* wrote *Snakes and Ladders* after working in the Hematology and Oncology Wards at Toronto's world - renowned Hospital for Sick Children.

The concept of using 'Snakes and Ladders' as a theme in the play was inspired by a five - year old child in the ward, one of many Coman had contact with, who compared her own life to the board game. Coman's sensitivity to various forms of cancer, sparked a new idea for a play, with an intense development and workshop of the script. With a lot of time and effort, not to mention John Ferguson's steep, mammoth - sized board game set that would make any designer's mouth water, Snakes *and Ladders* magically came to life.

The cast, made up of eleven actors, is composed of both Concordia students and outside professionals. Playing to both busloads of schoolchildren and adult audiences, Snakes and Ladders is sure to be a big winner all around. The play could also be a ground - breaker for Concordia's associations with outside theatres. If you haven't seen anything yet at Concordia this semester (shame on you) then don't miss this one.

Snakes and Ladders *is playing at the D.B. Clark Theatre IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HALL BUILDING. Dates available are November 24-26 and December 1-3 only, at 8 PM. Tickets can be purchased at the box - office (842-4742) between 3:30 PM and 6:30 PM, and Information Services in the lobby of the Hall Building between 9 AM and 3 PM, both between Monday and Friday. Concordia University does not offer services for Visa and Mastercard payments.*

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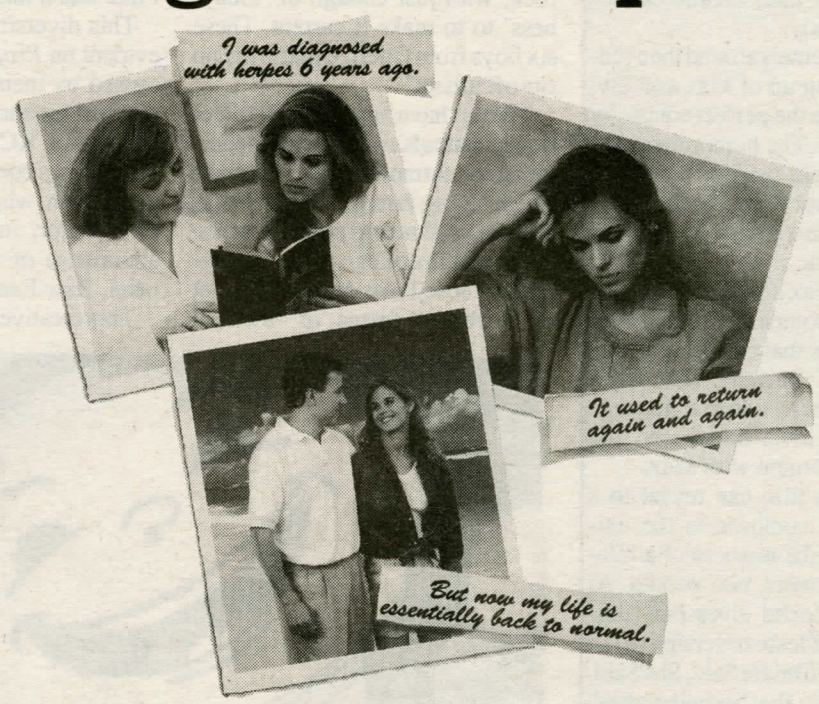

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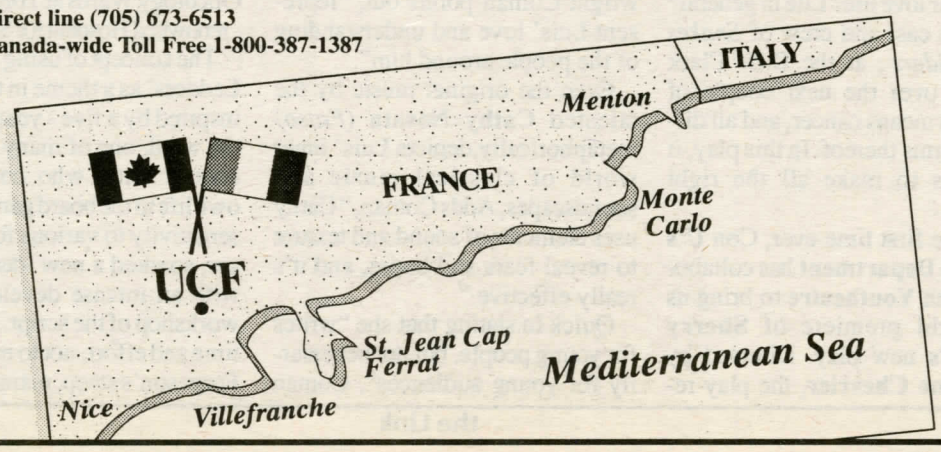

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Women's V-ball looking for the right chemistry

by Rob Bertrand

The Concordia women's varsity volleyball team is in the process of finding the proper balance of the old and the new. In action this weekend, the Stingers lost both of its matches against the Sherbrooke Vert et Or.

Saturday at Loyola, the Stingers lost all three matches (15-5, 15-4, 15-10). On Sunday, though they lost three out of four games, this time 16-14, 13-15, 15-10, 15-1, the Stingers were more focused and challenged Sherbrooke for most of the match.

After Sunday's game, Stingers head coach Melanie Sanford talked about the team's improved performance. "The first three sets we were working hard," said Sanford. "We were following the game plan and we were doing the things we had spoken about before the match."

The Stingers seemed to run out of steam in the final set, which Sanford blamed on losing their grip on the basics. "The up side to it is that we definitely played better today. But you have to play well for the whole match."

"We came into the game on Sunday with a different outlook," agreed middle-hitter Cassandra Bardo, now in her fourth year. "We concentrated more on strategy: where to place the ball, who to go after, where to hit, and where to serve.

"Keeping that level of play is the key. If we can use that as our lowest level of play, we can be sure that we have a good base to work from."

The Stingers are fielding a young team this year. Three first year players have assumed important positions on the team. Veterans Bardo, Eleanor Chan, and Natalie Müller have assumed most of the leadership responsibilities, with Bardo and Müller assuming co-captain duties.

Bardo is using her experience to try to set an example for the team's younger players. "I try to be a leader out on the court. I try to get the rest of the team going," said Bardo. "But I still need work just like anybody else."

According to Bardo, the Stingers, without a victory in their last four games, still haven't managed to find the right chemistry between the old and the new. "It takes game time to do that, but once you find the right group, it comes like that," said Bardo with a snap of her fingers. "It's not something that you have to think about."

The women's varsity team returns to the court tomorrow as they play host to McGill. Game time is 7 p.m.

photo by Rai-Zu Huang

Co-captains Natalie Müller and Cassie Bardo return to earth after blocking Sherbrooke's Annue Lagueux

Hockey Stingers back in first

by Joshua Oubadia

Call them the Comeback Kids.

The Concordia Stingers men's hockey team have made a habit of fighting back late in the game for victory. On Friday, the Stingers came back after trailing 3-2 in the third to tie the Guelph Gryphons 3-3, and on Saturday, the team defeated the Toronto Varsity Blues 5-4 on two late third-period goals.

In the game against Guelph, Concordia centre Daniel Paradis's goal midway through the third period gave the Stingers a 3-3 tie against the always tough Gryphons. The goal was a deflection off a point shot by defenceman Eric Rochette.

It was as if the visiting Gryphons were following a prearranged script.

Guelph drew first blood, scoring at 12:45 of the first period, only to have the Stingers tie the score on a power play goal by defenceman Benoit Therrien in the last minute of the period.

Concordia added another goal in the second when Brunet skated the entire length of the ice, drew the Guelph defender to him, and fed a nifty pass to right-winger Eric Meloche, who scored into the open side of the net.

Two goals by Guelph left-winger Chris Clancy gave the Gryphons a short-lived 3-2 third period lead. Paradis's goal midway through the third earned Concordia the tie, but Karitsiotis made several big stops to preserve the tie.

"It's the sign of a good team when you can come back like that," head coach Yves Beaucage said following Saturday's game. "Although I'd like to not have to come back."

Against the Varsity Blues, the Stingers' line of Mathieu Brunet, Dave Szabo and Daniel Queenton did all the damage on one shift late in the third period. Trailing 4-3 with just under four minutes remaining in the game, left-winger Szabo tied up the score on a pass from Brunet. Forty-seven seconds later, Brunet netted the winner on a beautiful play.

"Mathieu showed a lot of poise and confidence on the winning goal," said Beaucage.

The game was a seesaw battle from the start. Toronto opened the scoring six minutes into the game, only to have the lead erased on goals by Steve Salhany at 10:29 and Bill Lees with only 1:30 left in the first period.

Stinger captain Daniel Picard's goal at 1:25 of the second, sandwiched between two Toronto goals, left the teams tied going into the third. Goals by Szabo and Brunet gave Concordia the well-deserved victory.

Last Tuesday, Concordia defeated the Ottawa Gee-Gees 1-0. The lone goal in the game was scored by Bill Lees, an Ottawa native. Karitsiotis picked up his first shutout of the year.

With five points in it's last three games, the Stingers moved into sole possession of first place in the OUAA's Far East Division. With a 5-2-2 record and 12 points overall, the team is one point ahead of the undefeated Trois-Rivieres Patriotes.

The Stingers play tomorrow night against cross-town rivals, the McGill Redmen, at the McConnell Arena at 7 o'clock. Over the Christmas break, the Stingers will fly to the Czech Republic where they will play a series of Eurpoean teams. Their next home game won't be until next January.

Pelland and Fortier named football All-Canadians

by Steve Knodell

The final nail of the 1994 University football season was hammered in Saturday evening with the Western Mustangs 50-40 four-and-a half hour overtime victory over the Saskatchewan Huskies.

But for Concordia, the festivities began and ended Thursday night at the Vanier Cup Banquet of Champions where Stinger linebacker Luc Pelland and free safety Marc Fortier were named to the All-Canadian team.

Forgotten for at least one night was the nightmare of McGill's two last-minute upsets that eliminated Concordia from post-season play.

Luc Pelland ended his University football career the way he played, with a bang.

Along with being named to the All-Canadian team, Pelland was runner-up for the league's defensive MVP award, the President's Trophy.

As head coach Pat Sheahan confirmed, defensively "Luc was without a doubt the dominant force in the O-Q this year."

He led the Ontario-Quebec division in solo (31) and total (66) tackles, coming second in assisted tackles with 31, and was MVP of both the 1994 Shrine Bowl and Homecoming games.

Hard-hitting free safety Marc Fortier received this description from coach Sheahan: "If there is a tougher player in the CIAU, I don't know where he's hiding."

Fortiers' 18 solo tackles and assists were the result of his disciplined work ethic.

As Sheahan explains, "Marc is as hard a working player as we have in the off-season. He is a 52-week-a-year football player."

Fortier is a two-time Ontario-Quebec all star and Stinger team captain.

While the casque of this football season has been buried, Marc Fortier and Luc Pelland were able to put a grin on the face of Concordia's unsuccessful season. May death rest in peace.

If you like sports, then come in and write sports for the Link

STANDINGS

Men's hockey

Team	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	PTS
1.Concordia	**9**	**5**	**2**	**2**	**29**	**28**	**12**
2.U.Q.T.R.	7	4	0	3	35	19	11
3.Ottawa	8	4	2	2	36	23	10
4.McGill	8	3	4	1	32	28	7

Women's volley-ball

Team	MP	W	L	SP	SW	SL	PF	PA	PTS
1.Laval	8	7	1	25	21	4	361	213	14
2. Sherbrooke	6	3	3	18	8	10	271	231	6
3.McGill	6	2	4	21	7	14	208	292	4
4.Concordia	**4**	**0**	**4**	**13**	**1**	**12**	**90**	**194**	**0**

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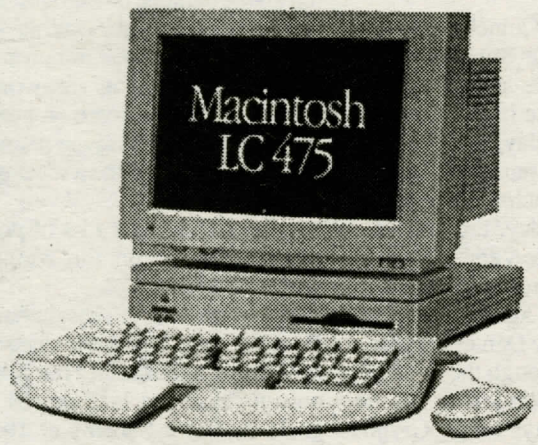

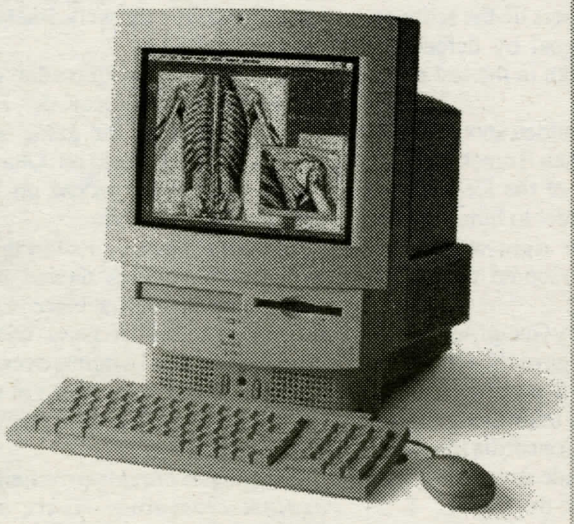

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